JAN. 1, 1938

# Literary DIGEST

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## LITERARY DIGEST

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### Farm spenders

*Springfield, Ill.*—Stability of farm prices at reasonable levels is necessary to maintain American standards of living on farms and to provide ample employment in cities.

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### Capital on strike

*New York, N. Y.*—The fundamental cause of the present recession lies in the uncertainties that come from the absence of standards and principles in our economic and political life. The absence of a standard for our money is one indication of the condition. More immediately, the decline is the result of overstimulation in the latter part of 1936, followed by a clamping-on of brakes last spring. A growing realization of the seriousness of the political situation caused a "strike" on the part of capital.

With or without a temporary rebound or rally between now and next February, my guess is that the depression will last until about next August. I do not think it probable that the general level will fall much, if any, lower than the present level.


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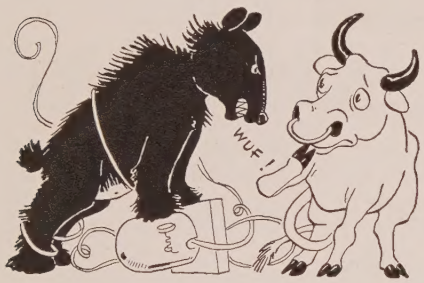
The chief factor that will determine recovery will be the withdrawal of political control over economic life. This would restore confidence among business men, and revive business planning, saving, and investment. One of the most important aspects will be a considerable moderation of the government's hostile attitude toward utilities.

The immediate occasion for recovery is likely to be a final stabilization and upturn in commodity prices.—*Lewis H. Haney, professor of economics, New York University*

### Reading, 29 inches

*Port Huron, Mich.*—Chandler Hovey, investment house partner, writing in your magazine, praises the stock market as a barometer forecasting what is to come.




But a barometer is never the cause of a storm. Mr. Hovey admits that "for several months the market has been loudly proclaiming that business was on the downgrade." Such loud "proclaiming," if continued long, may have the very effect of bringing about the condition proclaimed.

I cannot believe that powerful interests deliberately set about to scare the people into a new depression, but I do believe that they intended to teach the President a lesson as to who is "master." Instead of relying on argument, they resorted to the practical but diabolical method of raiding the stock market.—*George M. Montross*

### Gentlemen and scholars

*Chicago, Ill.*—May I call your attention to a factual error in the current issue of Literary Digest? You mention that the University of Chicago allows no women in men's dormitories, with or without chaperons.

The University of Chicago, long known as a liberal institution, does allow women to visit men in their dormitories (called "residence halls") with permission of the heads of the hall. This university is one of the few which I know that allow students to live anywhere they please, allow women students to remain out all night, allow the student to use his own discretion as to what is right and wrong.

Chicago is probably less restricted than any other university. The sole governing behavior is one that states "the university expects its students, faculty, and employees to conduct themselves in a manner befitting gentlemen and gentlewomen, scholars, and honorable citizens."—*David B. Eisendrath, Jr., graduate student, University of Chicago*

### Killed in action by accident

*Los Angeles, Calif.*—In Literary Digest appeared the article, "Napoleon vs. Motors," from *The Military Engineer*. The writer of it makes a comparison of the number killed during the Napoleonic wars of ten years with the number killed in automobile accidents during 1935.

Is this an argument in favor of substituting war for automobiles? Must we choose between useful machinery, calculated to promote happiness, killing only by accident, and war, which teaches men to hate and to destroy?

Does the writer, in his apology for war, take into consideration the greater number of motor vehicles, as against the much lesser number of soldiers engaged in destroying each other? By latest figures there were about 30 million cars on our highways.

The only apology for war worthy of consideration is that it is necessary to fight when attacked or to be prepared to fight.—*John Reid Young*

### Useless venture

*Boston, Mass.*—I quote from Pedro Syyap's letter: "America has beaten only Mexico and Spain, both vastly inferior in resources and in military strength." If Mr. Syyap had read American history, his letter would never have been written. Perhaps he considered the American Revolution an unimportant skirmish among the early American colonists.

This war was a fight between the world's greatest power and a budding nation which lacked the preparedness of Mr. Syyap's native land. To say that colonial America was "vastly inferior in resources and in military strength" to Great Britain would be the mildest comparison. If that victory was due to luck, then the result of the War of 1812 was a miracle.

Perhaps Mr. Syyap would like to see America pour more money, food, and blood into a useless venture which would spell chaos for it, just to prove to him its ability to quell a "mere fight between Orientals."—*Frank Baldassaro*

### Protect our rights

*Chicago, Ill.*—The country's genuine desire during recent years has been to keep out of trouble. That desire, as expressed in neutrality legislation, has only resulted in a series of affronts from other nations, of which the *Panay's* sinking is simply the climax.

It is high time to push aside partisanship and pacifism, and to return constitutional leadership in foreign affairs to the Executive. We should support an old-fashioned policy of neutrality and protection of American rights under international law.—*Graham Aldis*

### Unholy three

*Milwaukee, Wis.*—The *Panay* sinking appears to be an irresponsible act of the military government dominating the Japanese people. That unfortunate event, however, is no excuse for further irresponsible personal government by President Roosevelt, nor for squandering a billion dollars on so-called defense.

The *Panay* incident demonstrates the necessity of our joining the League of Nations, and of our full defensive cooperation with the other democratic governments against the unholy alliance of the dictatorships.—*Perry J. Stearns, president, Wisconsin World Peace Association*

### Dovelike eagle

*Seattle, Wash.*—We initiated the League of Nations and then backed out. Without us, the nearly broken nations of Europe that seek to maintain order can accomplish but little. They are more afraid of war than we are, for they know how serious the next will be. We refused to join in sanctions against Italy, lending tacit approval to the rape of Ethiopia, and showed an unconcern that has undoubtedly spurred on Japan.

Our neutrality policy is sheer dynamite. If England is forced into war with Japan,


Literary
DIGEST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will she be fighting her own battle only —or bearing the brunt of our weakness and inefficiency?

American sailors killed, American citizens warned that they remain abroad at their own peril, American interests unprotected, American property destroyed,

American fisheries gobbled up—the Good Neighbor constantly exposes another cheek. Is he waiting for a knockout? The eagle screams no more.—*H. D. Matthews*

### Negro speaks

*Jackson, Miss.*—Any implication that southern Republican national committeemen are more corrupt than those of other sections is false. The statement of Governor Aiken of Vermont is nothing more than a continuation of the efforts of the old clan crowd to eliminate every colored man of any influence in the Republican party.

While the methods of patronage in the South are different from those in any other section, they are just as clean. What is the difference between operating a Vermont Tammany Hall, with contributions for the party coming, for example, from a postmaster in Mississippi, and having a campaign fund in Texas made up by those who enjoy the usufructs of office?

I am astounded that a governor is so unintelligent and so reckless as to indict a whole group. The backbone of the Republican party in the South is the Negro. If the Negro had not been deserted and disfranchised in Reconstruction days, the Republican vote would not now be so small in the South. There are 600,000 disfranchised Negroes in Mississippi alone.

What the governor wants for respectability is a lily-white party in the South. But Negroes consider a lily-white party as damnable as any other party that stands for Negro degradation. Lily-whiteism will not return the Republican party to power. It can only return by going back to bedrock principles.—*Perry W. Howard, Republican National Committeeman for Mississippi*

### Quadrennial bee

*Athens, Ga.*—The charge by Governor Aiken of Vermont, of the "baneful influence of southern committeemen" is unworthy of a ward politician. Such allegations clearly indicate that the governor is floundering in abominable ignorance, and has no conception of the true situation, either political or legal.

His charge of reactionaries on the Republican National Committee will be resented by all informed Republicans. There are no reactionaries on the committee; there are, however, many members who are opposed to any program that is nothing more than an aping of the New Deal.

The governor has undoubtedly been stung by that quadrennial bee that has for its purpose the injection of a virus into the political blood stream of politicians, diagnosed now as "1940-itis."—*James W. Arnold, Republican National Committeeman for Georgia*

### K.K.K. genesis

*Edenton, N. C.*—I differ with Harbin M. King, who avers that the South does not resent the appointment of Mr. Black to the Supreme Court and that the Ku Klux Klan has served a wonderful purpose. When the K.K.K. was first formed during the Reconstruction orgy, it did have a noble purpose and was organized by the best men of the South.

But its very secrecy served as a cloak to the lawless and irresponsible. The better element soon withdrew. Its original purpose was not the promotion of class hatred, but it was the only instrument available to a people oppressed by sectional hatred for the protection of their homes. The K.K.K., as this generation has known it, has organized class hatreds under the leadership of designing politicians for the furthering of their schemes. —*J. H. McMullan*

### Children's example

*Baltimore, Md.*—Your story, "Just Like the Movies," about boys who followed the branding suggestion in *Dead End* and marked their comrades, suggests that not all movies should be open to persons of all ages.

That statement is a libel on youth. I am constantly associated with youth of all ages, from all sorts of homes. I know thousands of boys who would never be inspired by any movie, radio program, or story, to do anything unintelligent or cruel. I do know adults who would slash someone on such a suggestion. You will find them on the membership rolls of the Ku Klux Klan, the "Hooded Ones" of France, and the Black Legion. The question is not one of age. It is one of mentality, heredity, and environment.

You must not libel youth by making your standard of comparison the East Side gang of New York City.—*Henry Edward Warner*

### Confiscation for exploiters

*Tampa, Fla.*—The article on "CCC and Crime" states the camps have greatly reduced crime. If we could have the earth's population securely locked in solitary cells, crime would be abolished.

We have not reached the apex of civilization when there is no choice for millions of our young men but to wander about, or to be regimented into army "reform" schools or CCC camps.

National resources, as well as the wealth created by labor, are now concentrated in the hands of the few, a group that toils not—other than pulling the wires of legislation. Should the people pass a law that no measure be introduced in any legislature that has not been endorsed by a majority in the district where proposed, they would take a tremendous step toward democracy and check the wire-pullers.

The resources of the nation should be returned to the rightful owners, the people. The word "confiscation" has a horror to all exploiters of humanity, but this case would merely be the returning to the rightful owners of what had been obtained by fraud.

Unemployment could be relieved by an old age pension, with the age limit at 45 if necessary. Such a measure would not only relieve mass unemployment and suffering on the part of the ill-fed, ill-clad, and ill-housed, but would open opportunity for the overfed, overclad, and overhoused to get honest work.—*A. L. Keane*

### Top hat

*Los Angeles, Calif.*—Your article on the double feature movie is very interesting, but I fear the double bill problem is difficult to solve.

I am not in favor of double bills, yet I wonder what would happen to motion picture production if they were abolished.

The industry makes so many hundreds of pictures a year that it seems impossible to expect more than a small percentage of top-grade productions. If double bills are to be abolished, there will be no bookings available to many of the less important films. The curtailing of this class of product would deprive thou-

sands of technicians, actors, writers, of their jobs. These class B and C productions could not conceivably carry on as single billings today.

It is not possible to make only class A pictures in an industry expanded beyond all artistic proportions. I am amazed that "the movies" turn out as many fine things as they do. It isn't possible to be artistic in large quantities.—*Fred Astaire, star, RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.*

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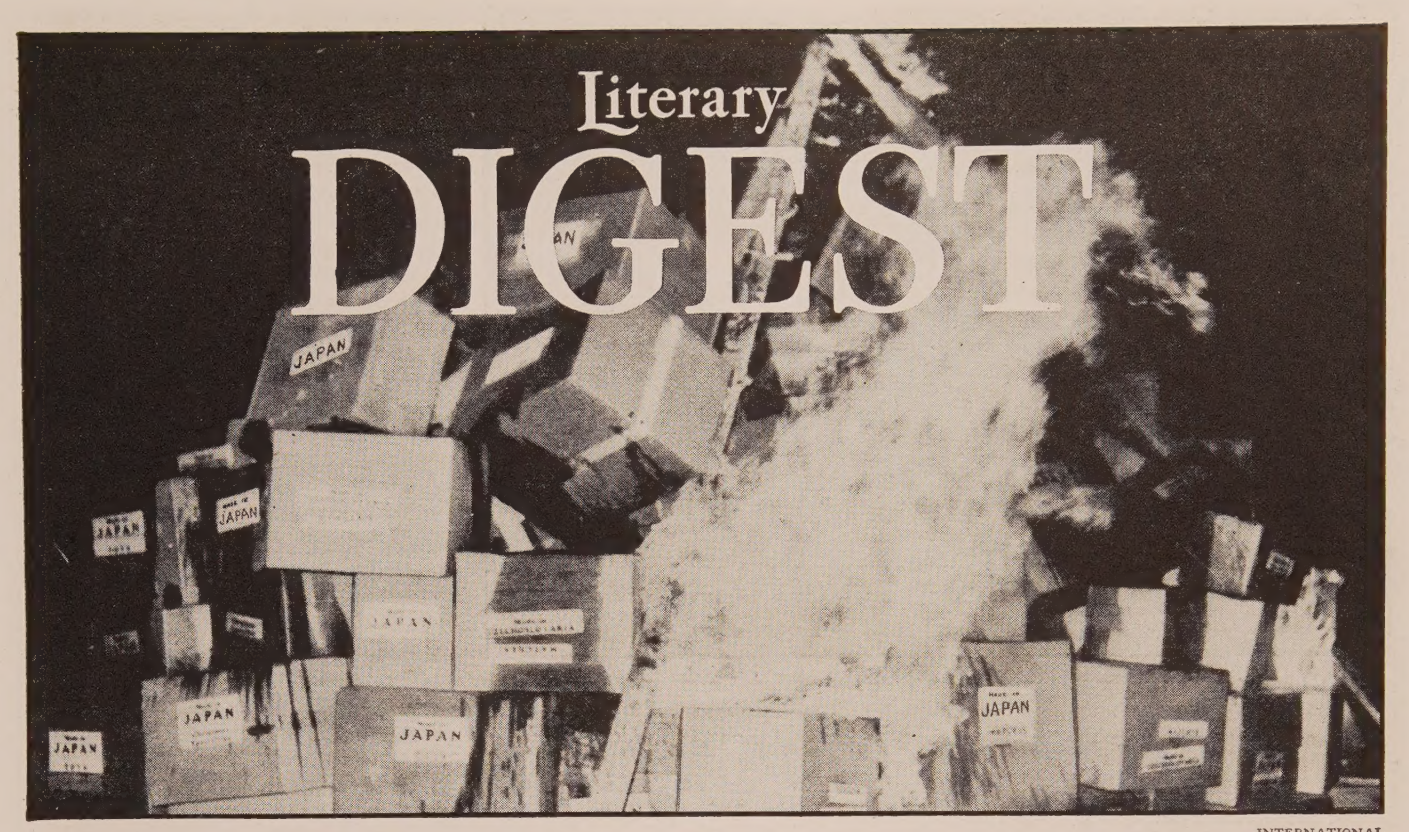


INTERNATIONAL

**RESENTMENT FLAMES:** Anti-Japanese feeling in different parts of the United States is breaking out in boycott parades, pickets with posters, and demonstrations such as this bonfire of Japanese-made goods at East Liverpool, Ohio

# Story of a Week

"THE best guesser is the best prophet," said Cicero. But an old year passes, a new one begins and prophets again have their day. How some of them look at 1938:

Joe Louis, heavyweight: "The year 1937 was a good one for me. It saw me win the world heavyweight title. But I expect 1938 to be an even better year, because I've got a date with Max Schmeling in June and there's nothing I want more than a chance to even my score with him."

George Abbott, theatrical producer: "With two flops behind me, the New Year looks very bright. I think the nation wants to laugh, so I'm forgetting drama, tragedy and sex. I'm going to get some laughs if I die in the attempt."

James H. McGraw, president, McGraw-Hill Publishing Company: "The present business recession may last through the first quarter, but no longer. The outlook for sound improvement seems to be better than at any time since 1932."

David Dubinsky, president, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union: "The past year saw a tremendous gain in the number of organized workers. The unions will continue to solidify their position in the newly won mass-production industries."

George Perry, of the New York Yankees: "The Yanks will win the American League pennant in 1938 by 15 games."

John Q. Public, well known average citizen: "I don't know. I didn't know last year and I won't know next."

**THIS WEEK**

*Cover: a hospital scene in candid color by M. F. Coplan*

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LITERARY DIGEST *receives special news service from United Press*

## JOBLESS now insured

"AMONG our objectives I place the security of the men, women and children of the nation first," President Roosevelt told Congress in June, 1934, asking for the creation of a nation-wide system of unemployment insurance.

At that time only Wisconsin had passed a law to insure its workers against unemployment. This week, under the Social Security Act which Congress passed in 1935, twenty-one other states will join her. The remaining states will swing into line within two years.

Although the laws of the various states differ in detail, the principles are similar. Only employers pay the taxes to support the program, except in eight states which require workers also to contribute. Levies started in 1936 at 1 per cent of the pay roll of each employer. They rose to 2 per cent in 1937. For 1938 they are 3 per cent.

PHOTOS FROM INTERNATIONAL

**ENGLISH SAILORS** for American union. The *Monarch of Bermuda* sailed from New York for Bermuda without her 450 passengers when these 290 members of her crew struck to force the company to recognize the Marine Transport Workers

The taxes, collected by the states, are deposited in the federal treasury and are treated there as a reserve fund, which now totals more than half a billion dollars. Of this sum, $350,000,000, an average of $30 per man, is earmarked for the 11,565,000 workers covered in the twenty-one states besides Wisconsin that now start payments.

Insurance is limited to 21,000,000 of the nation's 48,000,000 workers, as farm laborers, domestic servants, seamen, and workers in small and in non-profit making organizations are excluded from the system under most state laws.

In typical states, when a worker is laid off and is unemployed more than two weeks, he will receive weekly benefits, averaging half salary with a minimum of $5 per week and maximum of $15. Payments stop after sixteen weeks.

"In terms of food, morale, and sheer survival value," said the *Christian Science Monitor,* "the difference for a worker between being thrown out on the street jobless without a cent of income, and getting fifteen beautiful green dollar bills a week to keep his wife and family fed, is the difference between hope and despair."

With an increase in unemployment estimated at 1,000,000 since the present business recession set in, the Washington *Post* commented, "the system may well be subjected to quite a severe test at the very start. . . . Unemployment insurance . . . can and should, however, do much to lighten the relief load and to maintain the morale of the unemployed by tiding them over temporary periods of enforced idleness. The benefit payments, moreover, help to sustain workers' buying power in bad times and thus to cushion the shock of a general business recession."

As the first major test of Social Security approached, the *Arkansas Gazette* (Little Rock) warned that "the federal government has spent the unemployment money. . . . To be sure, it has built up 'accounts' to the credit of the states. . . . But these credits consist of nothing more than I.O.U.'s made out by the Treasury to another branch of the government. When . . . states . . . begin calling for their money to pay unemployment insurance, the government will have spent the money needed for that purpose. . . . It will have to embark on more borrowing at the very time when the administration and Congress face the necessity of putting an end to borrowing in order to balance a budget."

## JOBLESS in Wisconsin

WHEN Wisconsin sent a check to Neils B. Rudd, unemployed Madison engraver, on August 17, 1936, compensation of unemployed workers got under way in this country. Today, a year and a half later, Wisconsin has paid out $2,000,000 in benefits to 75,000 who have lost jobs.

The average person received three weekly checks at a near-minimum of $6 a week during the first year in which benefits were paid. "What the figures reveal," wrote John T. Flynn for NEA service, "is that the payments were pitifully small."

Wisconsin adopted its unemployment insurance law in 1932 during the first term of its Progressive Governor, Philip F. La Follette. Collecting taxes for three and a half years, the state has accumulated a reserve fund of $29,000,000, enough to pay her 400,000 workers flat benefits of $65 each.

Some days ago, the first report of a Wisconsin county, Racine, showed that payment of benefits to the jobless had lifted a large burden from direct relief. "Unemployment insurance will keep the average worker, who is . . . laid off only because of a seasonal slump, from having to ask for a relief handout," announced Miss Z. Z. Larrimer, Racine relief supervisor, in the Milwaukee *Journal.*

Wisconsin leaders generally approve the system. H. W. Story, vice-president of Allis-Chalmers, machine makers, is sure that "we are achieving a better regularization of employment than we would if we did not have the stimulus of the Wisconsin law." "It goes a long way toward solving unemployment problems," commented Joseph Siebers of the paper workers' union. Richard S. Falk, gear manufacturer, believes that the law "serves as a stabilizing influence during normal or slightly subnormal times." But "unemployment compensation acts cannot stand up in a severe depression."

## WAR VOTE before war

EIGHT YEARS ago when Louis Ludlow, Washington correspondent of several Indiana newspapers, swapped his seat in the press gallery for one on the floor of

**FREE-FOR-ALL** in Times Square, New York, when 100 pickets blocked traffic and fought police. Members of the Cafeteria Employees' Union, 60 were jailed one to three months

## WAR REFERENDUM: Should the people be allowed to vote on whether we fight abroad?

### Pro:

I PERSONALLY approve the referendum as nearer democracy, preventing hasty entrance into war, and allowing the rising tide of anti-war sentiment to become effective.—*Jessie W. Hughan, secretary, War Registers League**

Properly strengthened and safeguarded by amendments which Congressman Ludlow assures us he contemplates, this constitutional amendment will be one more bulwark against involvement in foreign wars while not interfering with genuine defense.—*Frederick J. Libby, President, National Council for Prevention of War**

The Ludlow amendment seeks to complete the democratic control of government by the people. It is the common people who risk most and suffer most by war. A war referendum is undoubtedly another brake on the chariot of Mars and an expression of trust in democracy.—*H. C. Engelbrecht, author of "Revolt Against War"**

I am in favor of this amendment because I believe it will delay action, and therefore adjustments can be made.—*Major General Smedley D. Butler*

Every man in the nation will jump to arms in case the United States is threatened with invasion, but when it comes to war overseas, the American people are the ones who will have to pay with their lives and taxes, and they are competent to make the decision whether American boys are to die abroad.—*Senator Arthur Capper (Kansas)**

We feel that the peace amendment proposed by Congressman Ludlow offers a safeguard against war, and not only a safeguard to the people of the United States but an example to all the other nations of the world.—*Joseph H. Fussel, secretary, General Theosophical Society**

The people of the United States will not be satisfied with the formality of having the Ludlow resolution reported out of committee. The recent developments in China have made the people realize that a nation can be certain of keeping out of war only if the people hold the power over declaration of war.—*Mrs. Estelle Sternberger, executive secretary, World Peaceways*

### Con:

From the standpoint of promoting peace and keeping this country out of war, I am unable to see either the wisdom or the practicability of this proposal.—*Cordell Hull, Secretary of State*

From the referendum would arise two factions; the majority in favor of war, the minority against it, and a divided nation would face attack. Mr. Ludlow seems to forget that America has embarked upon war only when such a state is existing, and that congressional finding merely confirms the fact of battle. To hold a referendum under such conditions would be to offer encouragement to the enemy.—*Army and Navy Journal*

The Ludlow amendment, if accepted by the people, would place this country at the mercy of any warlike nation. —*McKenzie J. Sullivan, editor, Army and Navy Courier**

In my view it would be as sensible to require a town meeting before permitting the fire department to face a blaze. To the last possible degree America should mind her own business and keep out of other people's wars. I favor every effectual insulation. But, with the greatest respect for the earnestness of those who promote the referendum idea, I believe it highly dangerous rather than protective.—*Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg (Mich.)**

I am very much opposed to it, and amazed that such a proposal could have mustered such support. This is equivalent to telling a nation like Japan "to go ahead and slap us in the face! Anything you do is all right with us."—*Senator W. H. King (Utah)**

This amendment would make the United States a sort of an international fool or coward.—*Representative Robert L. Ramsay (W. Va.)**

This proposal presupposes that the

**BALLOTS BEFORE BULLETS,** suggests Representative Ludlow, sponsoring a bill allowing people to vote on war

elected representatives of the people are not sound, well-balanced legislators. If the people haven't faith in us, they should remove us from office. It would be a calamity to hamstring Congress. Why elect representatives, and make them powerless on important issues?—*Senator Clyde L. Herring (Iowa)**

One of the many reasons for opposing the Ludlow amendment is that its adoption would deprive our nation of the opportunity of striking the first blow which, if successful, would save our country from invasion.—*General John A. Lejeune, ex-commander-in-chief, U. S. Marine Corps**

Taking power to declare war from Congress and giving it to the people is not consistent with our representative form of government.—*Lieut. Col. Lancaster, editor, "Iowa Guardsman"**

Our Constitution wisely provides that such grave questions shall be decided by the people through their freely elected representatives, and not by the method of a nation-wide town meeting. Such action as that proposed might paralyze the defensive power of our nation. This is one of those unwise and ill-considered measures which in the name of peace would play into the hands of those who wish to make war.—*Bishop William T. Manning**

*By wire to the Literary Digest.

the House of Representatives, he had a pet idea. He wanted to make it hard for Congress to talk the nation into another war. "Our system is more adapted to making war than it is to making peace," he said.

In 1935 the Congressman-journalist proposed an amendment to the Constitution designed to take from Congress the power to declare war, "except in the event of invasion," unless it is authorized to do so by a vote of the people. "Americans," declared Mr. Ludlow, "can cast their ballots for constables or dog-catchers or on the location of pesthouses or waterworks, but they have absolutely nothing to say about the most important of all decisions—a declaration of war."

His proposal was sent to the House Judiciary Committee—where it was promptly forgotten. He tried to take it away from the committee and bring it to the floor. To do this it was necessary for him to obtain 218 signatures of Congressmen to a special petition. He mustered only 74. Last February he reintroduced the measure. Again it was ignored in committee. Another discharge petition gathered 186 signers—still not enough. But recently when the American gunboat *Panay*, at anchor in the Yangtze River near Nanking, was sent to the bottom by Japanese bombs, feeling in

INTERNATIONAL

**NO LONGER AMERICAN** is Countess Haugwitz-Reventlow, the former Barbara Hutton, whose fortune of 45 million dollars was built by nickels and dimes. On the day when the Countess renounced America, striking employees closed 2 New York Woolworth stores and picketed 35 others

Congress switched. Talk of the danger of war caused a rush to sign the petition. When the 218th name was affixed it was announced that the amendment would come up for action on January 10.

"At last," said Mr. Ludlow immediately afterward, in a radio broadcast from Washington over the intercity network, "those who have to suffer, and, if need be, to die, will have a chance to vote on the question."

But many Washington observers doubted the amendment ever would pass. As soon as it was recalled from the committee it became the center of a hot debate with more assailants in Congress than defenders. President Roosevelt told a press conference he was against it. Conflicting reactions on the proposal, in and out of Washington, are printed on page 7.

## BARBARA HUTTON'S farewell

TWO WEEKS AGO, when the North German Lloyd liner *Europa* arrived at New York, Countess Haugwitz-Reventlow, the former Barbara Hutton, Woolworth heiress, leaned against a rail. Reporters and photographers approached.

"I'm here to spend Christmas with my father," she said. "I have no intention of spending the rest of my life in Europe. We'll buy a place here some time. But all the properties shown on Long Island are much too large."

Thirty-six hours later the Countess was back at the pier. She boarded the *Europa* by one of the lower gangplanks at midnight and remained out of sight until the ship sailed a few minutes later.

When she was out at sea, on the way back to her husband and child, her lawyers in New York announced that in her one-day stay in the city she had renounced her American citizenship. At the time of her marriage to Count Haugwitz-Reventlow, a Danish subject, she automatically acquired Danish nationality. "Her dual nationality," explained the lawyers, "has resulted in various legal complications affecting her status as well as that of her child and she has finally felt obliged . . . to forego her United States citizenship in order to alleviate this anomalous and unsatisfactory condition."

Rumors that her action would reduce the Countess' federal or state income taxes in this country were quickly denied by tax authorities, but, says the New York *Daily News*, "investigation of inheritance laws revealed that her changed status would result in considerable savings to her estate. If she had retained her American citizenship, half of her $50,000,000 fortune would have gone to the government at the time of her death. In Denmark, however, the inheritance tax will take only $6,500,000. The result would be a mere $18,500,000 saving, more in itself, probably, than any of Denmark's 3,000,000 citizens possesses."

In 1899 when the late William Waldorf Astor abandoned his American citizenship to become a British subject, he was vigorously condemned by American newspaper editors. Since then editors rarely have had the same cause for excitement. What they think of Barbara Hutton's recent decision the adjoining box of excerpts from typical editorials will show.

## MAGIC WORDS for G.O.P.

"WORDS are magic—history-making magic," said Glenn Frank, then president of the University of Wisconsin, during the presidential campaign of 1936.

The other day Dr. Frank was selected to deal in magic for the Republican party. He was asked to become chairman of a committee to frame a statement of party principles and policies.

Words always have come easily to Dr. Frank. As a thirteen-year-old boy in the hamlet of Greentop, Missouri, he became an itinerant evangelist. Billy Sunday gave him a job of preaching to overflow crowds. He studied at Northwestern University, worked in Boston for Edward A. Filene, and took a turn at editing the *Century Magazine*. He then, a dozen years ago, became president of the University of Wisconsin, where supporters called him a great educator and detractors called him "the great gliberal." Early in 1937 he was

## CURRENT OPINION: The press reacts to Barbara Hutton Reventlow's farewell to America

SOUTHERN chivalry ordinarily would prompt us to sympathize with the Countess Haugwitz-Reventlow, who has been enslaved to a chain of dimes 100 miles long ever since she first learned to reach for a diamond necklace. But the Countess, unhappily, lives a life too filled with contrast to prompt much sympathy. Americans may miss the citizenship of the Countess, but they will miss the tax revenue more.—*Birmingham Age-Herald*

Bye-bye, Barbara. The lady who was born Barbara Hutton followed a proper course when, having married a Dane, she elected to become a Dane. —*Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer*

Her decision will not endear her and probably will definitely alienate her from the people of her own native country who can scarcely be blamed for regarding her desertion as motivated by an urge to become still more intimately aligned with the "exclusive" international set which includes the Windsors among other famed expatriates.—*Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch*

The absentee landlord has never been a beloved figure.—*New York Daily News*

The government of America which this young lady has renounced, and the American taxpayers, are working to give her a big income—and she doesn't have to kick back any taxes. And for that, we don't blame this rich young lady; we blame a system under which some 50 billion dollars of tax-exempt securities escape the heavy hand of a government that crushes private industry with taxes. — *New York Daily Mirror*

deposed by the University's Board of Regents, on charges of mismanagement, but some observers saw this move as the outcome of a political squabble with Governor La Follette.

His selection as head of the Republican policy committee touched off a brisk debate in the press. The Milwaukee *Journal* (Ind.) noted that "Dr. Frank has the ability to put his conclusions in language at once brilliant and attractive. In this he has few competitors and no superiors."

His "unexpectedly progressive" choice, Raymond Clapper wrote in the Scripps-Howard newspapers, turns "the clock forward a couple of decades, which is pretty good when you bear in mind that the party began marking time thirty years ago."

"A member of the liberal wing of the party," the Hartford *Courant* (Rep.) declared, "he is receptive to new ideas."

The New York *Herald Tribune* (Ind. Rep.), however, felt that "as a leader fitted to lift the Republican party above its personal rivalries, its feuds and its confusion of outlook, his choice is a grave disappointment." The *Herald Tribune* declared that "he has been generally regarded as himself ambitious for political office, and . . . he is now ex-president of a university." (Governor Aiken of Republican Vermont recently remarked that "college presidents . . . cannot win an election.")

Although a supporter of the New Deal at its inception, Dr. Frank since has condemned its "scuttling of democracy" and "economy of scarcity." In the most recent issue of *Rural Progress*, a monthly which is mailed free to 2,000,000 midwestern farmers, and of which he is editor, he laughed at "the unbelievable insanity of trying to arrive at a life of abundance through legislating for scarcity."

"You can call it social-minded, liberal, progressive," he said, "but it remains antisocial, illiberal, unprogressive, reactionary."

## WHITHER Congress?

WHEN the special session of Congress assembled November 15, President Roosevelt urged prompt passage of bills covering crop surplus control, wages and hours, government reorganization, regional planning and curbs on monopoly. "For the sake of the nation," he said, "I hope for early action."

The President's hope was not realized. "We have made as much headway as could be expected. Some of these measures couldn't be handled overnight," was Speaker William B. Bankhead's explanation of failure of Congress to complete the President's program at the special session.

At the moment, it is not certain that Mr. Roosevelt's hope for "early action" will be fulfilled at the regular session, beginning Monday. Some Senators and Representatives, returning to Washington, feared that enactment of the President's program might be halted abruptly by a new row over the Supreme Court. Their predictions about prospects for the regular session—made in statements this week to the LITERARY DIGEST—were colored by this possibility, as by the current recession in business.

"The prospects all depend on what the President wants done," said Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, opponent of the President's recent plan to enlarge the Supreme Court. "I wouldn't be surprised to see him renew his fight over the Court. If we have that battle to fight over again and if a reorganization bill, which would bring independent agencies under government departments, is placed before us, there will be a long, long fight."

One specific piece of legislation that is headed for enactment at the regular session is the tax revision measure, says the United Press. "The best guess is that it will retain the undistributed profits tax in form, but not in substance. The present act will be emasculated to such an extent that the opposition of business will disappear."

Senator Lewis Schwellenbach of Washington, New Deal Democrat, thinks that the length of the regular session and character of legislation will be determined largely by the business recession.

"Everything will depend on business conditions in the spring of the year," he declared. "If there is a decided improvement in business, I think the regular session will not be particularly eventful. If business continues to decline, there will doubtless be legislative attempts to improve it. What form they will take, I don't know, but such bills doubtless would complicate and prolong the session."

Senator Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin thought it futile to predict what Congress is going to do in the regular session, and observed: "My experience has been that we always work longer than anyone expects at the outset."

## ALCATRAZ—escape proof?

OF THE GLOOMY, gray federal prison that squats on moody Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, a released felon once said: "It's as near escape-proof as anything can be made. The hopelessness of it gets you. Capone feels it. Everybody does. You know you'll never get a parole. There's no chance there for anybody—only that God-awful silence that gets on your nerves."

Recently, the question, "Is Alcatraz escape-proof?" popped up again to plague prison officials and to provide restless convicts inside the penitentiary with food for thought. A few days earlier, two long-term convicts: Theodore Cole, a 23-year-old kidnaper, and Ralph Roe, a 29-year-old bank robber, made good a long boast. In a dense fog that blanketed the island and covered their movements, the pair broke two panes in a shop window, jumped out into the workyard, pried open a lock on the high mesh-wire fence surrounding the prison, jumped down onto a rock ledge, and then apparently

**G.O.P. UNDER DISCUSSION:** John D. M. Hamilton, chairman of the Republican National Committee, meets with Mrs. John E. Hillman (left) and Mrs. Worthington Scranton to discuss the personnel of a committee to draft a charter for the Republican party. Dr. Glenn Frank, former president of the University of Wisconsin, has been asked to serve as chairman

WIDE WORLD

INTERNATIONAL

**INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT** was the sinking of the U. S. gunboat *Panay* on December 12 by the Japanese in the Yangtze River near Nanking. The gunboat was taking refugees from the beleagured city when she was bombed from the air and allegedly machine-gunned by launches. Four men were killed and thirteen wounded. Japanese officials deplore "a most unhappy incident"

dived into the swirling waters of the bay, which was running at high tide.

Whether they were able to swim the gruelling one-and-a-quarter miles to San Francisco's shores, whether they were picked up by confederates in a waiting boat, or whether they drowned, seemed a mystery. Said James A. Johnston, warden of the prison: "If they went into the water, it was a long gambler's chance. I don't see how anybody could make it. There was driftwood in the tide and I could see it swirling out. It went out at high speed, turning over and over.

"The tide would have swept them right out the Golden Gate into the sea. I don't see that the men had any chance of clicking if they hoped to reach a prearranged boat, standing out of sight. I don't think they could have got to the boat."

Meantime, acting on the slim possibility that the convicts might yet be alive, Federal Bureau of Investigation operatives tracked down every clue.

## LABOR on the high seas

"UNDISCIPLINE, insubordination, and mutiny can't be permitted at sea," General Hugh S. Johnson has repeatedly written in his syndicated newspaper column, condemning "the shocking lack of discipline on board American vessels." Chairman Joseph P. Kennedy of the Maritime Commission calls labor conditions at sea "disgraceful."

Recently three instances of alleged lack of discipline on American ships have hit the headlines. Senator Vandenberg of Michigan feared "there is a growing feeling in the American public that it is not even safe to ride on an American ship."

Most prominent was the case of the freighter *Algic,* which in the course of a voyage to South America was beset by several alleged sit-down strikes, a fatal shooting and a drowning. The other day fourteen *Algic* sailors were convicted of mutiny, having sat down in Montevideo, Uruguay, in protest against working with non-union stevedores. Nine were jailed for two months, and five others fined $50 each.

"The lawful commands of the master of a ship must be observed," declared Federal Judge W. Calvin Chestnut, who presided at the trial of the *Algic* crew in Baltimore. The Washington *Post* regarded the convictions as "an important milestone in the endeavor to develop an efficient merchant marine in this country." The *Pilot,* organ of the National Maritime Union, replied that "to charge a seaman with mutiny, while a vessel is in a safe harbor, is to intimidate him against asserting his rights under the law, and to deprive him of those rights enjoyed by the workers on shore."

From the Far East came charges that members of the crew of the *President Hoover,* which recently ran aground on a Formosa reef, got drunk and terrorized women and children. Senator Copeland of New York, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, called this "just one conspicuous example of innumerable incidents of the same sort" and promised an investigation. The *Hoover's* crew denied the accusations.

Senator Copeland also made public a letter alleging "abuse and intimidation" of passengers on board the *Black Falcon,* an American Diamond liner, on a trip to Rotterdam. Which prompted Victor J. Sudman, president of the line, to declare that "the whole thing was a gross exaggeration by a man who doesn't know much about ships."

## NEW CHINESE setups

"THE JAPANESE government is not satisfied with the success of its arms in the capture of Nanking. The situation is far from settled." So, some days ago, said Admiral Hasegawa, who heads the Japanese fleet in Chinese waters. As he said it, Hankow, 400 miles up the Yangtze River from Nanking, and Canton, great metropolis of the extreme south of China, were nervously expecting Japanese attacks.

In northerly Shantung, at Tsingtao, angry Chinese mobs destroyed the huge cotton mills of nine Japanese concerns, which had employed 24,000 Chinese workers. There, too, a Japanese attack by land and sea was expected.

Meanwhile, in those parts of China held by Japan, said the United Press, "Japan's conquering military machine has set up its second Asiatic empire—a 'provisional government of all China'—in which puppet Chinese politicians will rule under Japan's thumb from Peking."

The new provisional government proclaimed itself as follows through an official manifesto: "Since the Nanking government of General Chiang-Kai-shek has fallen and the leaders of the Chinese government have run away from their duties, it has been necessary to assume responsibility by establishing a provisional government for the republic of China . . . to restore democratic government, propagate eastern Asiatic moral principles, exterminate communism, and improve the standard of living."

The new provisional China will include, presumably, those parts of North China occupied by Japan above the Yellow River, plus Shanghai, Nanking, and other areas of South China taken by the Japanese army and navy.

Last week, following the erection of Japan's new Chinese protectorate, Earl Leaf of the United Press wired from Shanghai: "China's powerful Communist party, taking advantage of the fall of Nanking and the disorganization of its Chinese central government, has seized control of China's political setup in a major upheaval. . . . The shift of control is expected to change the complexion of Chinese resistance to Japan . . . by reorganization of Chinese warfare involving destruction of the country through which they retreat, with the ever graver threat of an 'about-face' toward Soviet Russia and large-scale military assistance which the Chinese reds would be able to command from their Soviet friends."

Rumors of such a trend threw the question of the strength of Russia's Red army (see page 16) into the foreground of public attention, while all the world wondered what part Russia now planned to play in the Sino-Japanese war.

## *PANAY* backwash

NEW complications churned troubled waters last week as the United States and Japan strove to settle peacefully the controversy over the bombing, machine-gunning and sinking of the U.S.S. *Panay* on December 12 by Japanese in China's Yangtze River.

While Emperor Hirohito was breaking an age-old precedent of Japan's heaven-descended rulers by personally studying President Roosevelt's message of protest, a new protest was launched from America. It charged the Nipponese army with having machine-gunned the stricken *Panay* (pronounced Pa-nigh), after it had been bombed by Japanese naval airplanes.

This "most serious" charge was at first denied, then admitted by the Tokyo Foreign Office. Later it was partially denied again by the Japanese military attaché at Shanghai, who disagreed both with the information which his diplomatic colleagues possessed and with the eyewitness accounts previously reported by American naval officers and American, English and Italian civilians.

While the Japanese navy, whose air chief was recalled, atoned for the bombings, the army was reluctant to take any responsibility for the incident.

In the main, Japanese spokesmen were conciliatory; their people apologetic and friendly. To the Japanese Ambassador at Washington, the *Panay* incident was "a shocking blunder"; to Admiral Hasegawa it was "a ghastly mistake." The Tokyo newspaper *Nichi Nichi* hoped that the United States and Britain, which also had ships attacked at the time of the *Panay* incident, would "not lose sight of their traditional calm and reason and will take due cognizance of our sincerity."

In England, the London *Times* struck off a strong editorial: "It is difficult to conceive a more wanton breach of the code of international law and the usages of civilized warfare." But in Germany, Japan's ally, it appeared that the United States and England were as much at fault as Japan. The entire German press criticized Washington and London for the "build-up" they were giving the incident, which General Goering's paper, the *Essen National Zeitung,* dismissed as "regrettable, but in the history of military conflicts in nowise uncommon."

In Washington, our entire policy in China was narrowly scrutinized. Senators Bone (Wash.), Shipstead (Minn.) and Bridges (N. H.) spoke out against continuing to allow our ships and citizens in the Far East. Secretary Hull also appeared to favor eventual withdrawal. To New Jersey's Senator Smathers he wrote that the administration had long considered withdrawing from the Far East, but that the present moment was not "opportune."

## MYSTERY in Moscow

RED LIGHT was shed on a first-class international mystery several days ago when the Soviet Government's journalistic mouthpiece, *Izvestia,* broke a week's silence and announced that "Mr. and Mrs. Robinson of New York" were under arrest in Moscow as suspects in an anti-government conspiracy. Then Soviet officialdom lapsed into silence again.

Who is "Donald L. Robinson," 5 feet, 8 inches tall, with brown hair and blue eyes? Who is "Ruth Norma Robinson," 5 feet 2 inches tall, with brown hair and blue eyes? Why did they go to Russia, and precisely why were they arrested? Some 129,000,000 Americans and the federal government would like to know. It is simply known that they registered at the National Hotel in Moscow on November 6; that the man claimed to be a writer who had business with a state publishing house.

Suddenly, two weeks ago, "Mr. Robinson" vanished. To reporters his plump woman companion explained nervously that he was in a "hospital," which one she would not say. Five days passed and she disappeared also.

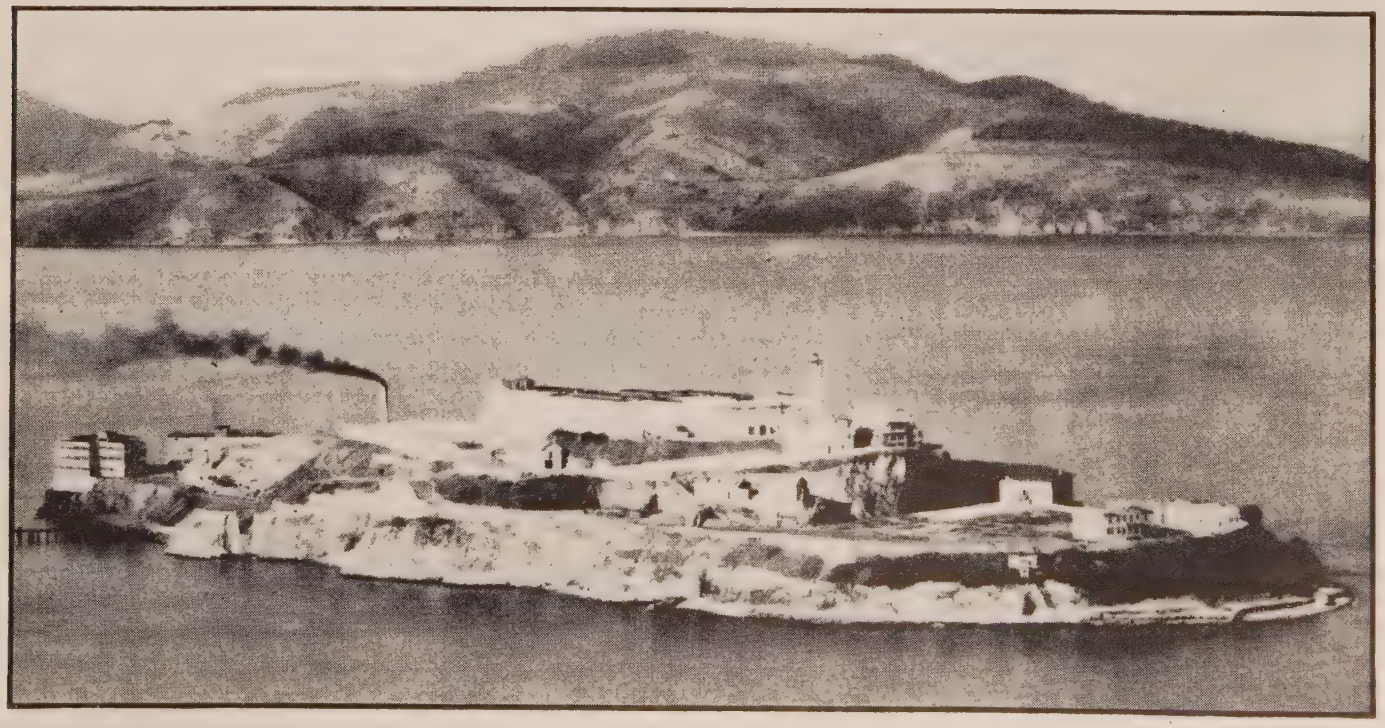
Vainly our Embassy sought information about the "Robinsons" from the Soviet Government. Then, unexpectedly, the scene shifted to Washington. The State Department revealed that the "Robinsons' " American passports were fraudulent. They had been made out in the names of two Brooklyn children, a boy and a girl, who had died in 1909 and 1915, respectively. Officials, moreover, doubted whether the couple were Americans after all.

Meanwhile, all that is known, on the Russian side of the fence, is that the "Robinsons" are in the dread Lubyanka jail. They face the chance of being charged as Trotskyist "counter-revolutionaries" against the Stalin regime.

In Moscow, the *Izvestia* editorialized: "American Trotskyists, somehow, are mixed up in the matter." Which drew from James P. Cannon of the Socialist

**ESCAPE-PROOF ALCATRAZ** belied its name when two long-term convicts disappeared from the former fortress on December 16, by scaling the stockade

INTERNATIONAL



Party Left Wing Branches (Trotskyist) the retort that this affair is an "attempt by the Stalin regime to transfer to American soil its method of government by frame-up."

## FOR SALE: Haile house

"I AM a poor man, yes; but I am not an object of charity," Haile Selassie —former Emperor of Ethiopia—remarked to a sympathetic English lady who recently visited him at Bath, England, where he has been living in exile.

According to the *Sunday Referee* of London, "He has not been able to afford fires in any rooms except the children's nursery. There have been twenty-two of his people living in a sixteen-room house. The Emperor's cousin lives with his wife and daughter in a converted garage."

Now Selassie, experiencing more financial hardships, plans to sell the house. A large, rambling affair, it contains seven bedrooms, and is surrounded by two acres of grounds. The price asked approximates $20,000. Selassie, the London press surmises, intends to move to the British capital to economize and to bring himself closer to political affairs. At Bath the exiled ruler had exchanged the 350,000 square miles of vast Ethiopia for a paltry 87,120 square feet of English soil.

"Not only did Mussolini offer me money," he said, "but also the return of my state funds. But I would not sell my people for a pound or so a head, nor would I accept personal wealth and security at such a price. Today I have absolutely no income."

**NEW SWISS PRESIDENT, Johannes Baumann, progressed from the Federal Council of the republic in 1937 to its presidency in 1938**

ACME

As for conditions in Ethiopia herself, under Italian rule—"Italian troops are constantly attacked," writes Genevieve Tabouis in the Paris *Oeuvre*, "and sometimes lose 2000 to 3000 men in a single ambush. The morale of the troops is bad," she adds, "and a shortage of gasoline makes the supply problem difficult. The whole situation is unfavorable to Mussolini."

But Major E. W. Polson Newman, a British colonial expert writing for *Great Britain and the East* magazine of London, disagrees with Mlle. Tabouis. Says the major: "Profiting from her own experiences, and making use of the successes and failures of powers with longer experiences of colonization, Italy is in a most favorable position in Ethiopia. . . . Now that she is set on her course, she may be expected to move fast."

## TOP MAN in Switzerland

THE WORLD'S oldest republic—it has functioned as such since 1291—elected a new president the other day. Dr. Johannes Baumann will assume that office in Switzerland Saturday, and will serve for one year, succeeding Dr. Giuseppe Motta. He was chosen by the overwhelming vote of the Swiss parliament.

The four million people of Switzerland, inhabiting an area the size of Delaware and Maryland combined, are governed by an executive Federal Council of seven. Baumann, a liberal, has served on that Council since 1934, and, as President, will act as its chairman. He formerly served as Minister of Justice and Police, important post in a country packed with exiles as Switzerland in these days. He is stocky, dark, with a close-cropped Teutonic head, and hails from the historic canton of Appenzell, which, the British historian Macaulay used to say, could be relied on to furnish "stout infantry."

## DOVES along a border

ALTHOUGH France and Germany today, as ever, are in opposing political camps—France lined up with England and Russia, Germany with Italy and Japan—Franco-German relations show signs of improvement. Not long ago there was a joint revision and purge of French and German history textbooks to eliminate international hatred among children, and to present the viewpoints of both sides on controversial topics such as the origins of the World War.

Now, France and Germany have signed a border pact, under which, an Associated Press dispatch from Paris explains, "everyday relations such as passport requirements, pasturage rights, and monetary privileges for citizens who cross the French-German borders frequently" will be amicably regulated.

"The new pact," the A.P. continues, "was accomplished by permanent French and German trade commissions which last July concluded a commercial and financial treaty."

It is to be followed by another pact "to curb mutual press attacks." Discussions on this subject between French and German officials will soon start in Berlin.

## PEOPLE of a week

**Engagement**—*Miss Elizabeth Jane Kern,* daughter of Jerome Kern, noted composer, and *Richard Alan Green,* motion picture director.

**Marriage**—*Miss Marie McRae Smith,* granddaughter of Colonel Milton A. McRae of the Scripps-McRae (later Scripps-Howard) newspapers, and *Lieutenant-Commander T. C. Conway Lloyd* of the British Royal Navy.

**Appointments**—As Bishops to preside over three recently created Roman Catholic dioceses in the United States, *the Rev. Thomas H. McLaughlin,* Bishop of Paterson, N. J.; *the Rev. Bartholomew J. Eustace,* Bishop of Camden, N. J.; *the Rev. Francis H. Cotton,* Bishop of Owensboro, Ky. . . . *Dr. St. George L. Sioussat,* professor of American history at the University of Pennsylvania, as chief of the American history division of the Library of Congress. He succeeds the late Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, who died in September. . . . *Edward L. McGrady,* former Assistant Secretary of Labor, and *Alfred Rheinstein,* New York building contractor, as members of the New York City Housing Authority.

**Retirement**—*Dr. Morris Raphael Cohen,* former president of the American Philosophical Association, as professor of philosophy after twenty-five years at the College of the City of New York.

**Deaths**—*Robert Worth Bingham,* 66, since 1933 United States Ambassador to Great Britain, newspaper publisher, industrialist and philanthropist. . . . *General Erich Friedrich Wilhelm Ludendorff,* 72, one of Germany's last surviving World War figures. During the war he was chief of staff under the late Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg. . . . *George Washington Donaghey,* 81, Governor of Arkansas from 1909 to 1913, distinguished philanthropist and reformer. . . . *William Johnson Harahan,* 69, president of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, the Pere Marquette, and Nickel Plate Railroads, one of the best known figures in American railroad circles.

WIDE WORLD

**NO LONGER TABOO:** The first step in the war against syphilis was to bring the fight into the open. Over 1000 Chicago boys and girls helped in a city-wide campaign

# Youth Declares War

CRUSADES and agitations in college newspapers usually follow well-beaten paths, but in 1937 undergraduate papers on several campuses blazoned out with a pioneer campaign. As part of the national drive against syphilis, these papers argued, students should take the syphilis-detecting Wassermann test.

Some editors insisted that the tests should be compulsory, a part of the regular health-examination routine for incoming students. Others urged a free, voluntary system. Campaigns differed from campus to campus, but wherever students had a chance to submit to free confidential tests the response surprised even the crusaders themselves.

At the University of Pittsburgh, for instance, student health officers predicted that not more than three or four hundred would take Wassermanns. During a fortnight's campaign which the *Pitt News* conducted, however, more than 1700 offered themselves.

From a medical standpoint the testing of college students shows that syphilis is extremely rare among undergraduates. At the University of Minnesota, in one year, compulsory tests were administered to 7000 students. Only six positive cases were found, and only one victim was an undergraduate.

What the tests indicate from a social standpoint is equally significant. There is undoubtedly a strong positive sentiment among college-age youth for an open-minded attack on the disease.

Surveys conducted throughout the United States by the American Institute of Public Opinion in the past year show that the scattered collegiate campaigns are by no means isolated examples. The surveys prove that a great majority of Americans consider syphilis a problem of public health—no longer merely the hard luck and the private grief of the man or woman who has it. Most clearly, the studies indicate that the old taboos which once surrounded discussion of venereal diseases are breaking down. The public wants information. It is ready for a first-rate crusade.

How far is the public willing to go? Public health authorities like United States Surgeon General Parran are asking that question these days throughout the country. The Institute's surveys point some answers:

First: Americans favor a nation-wide educational campaign to inform the public about venereal disease.

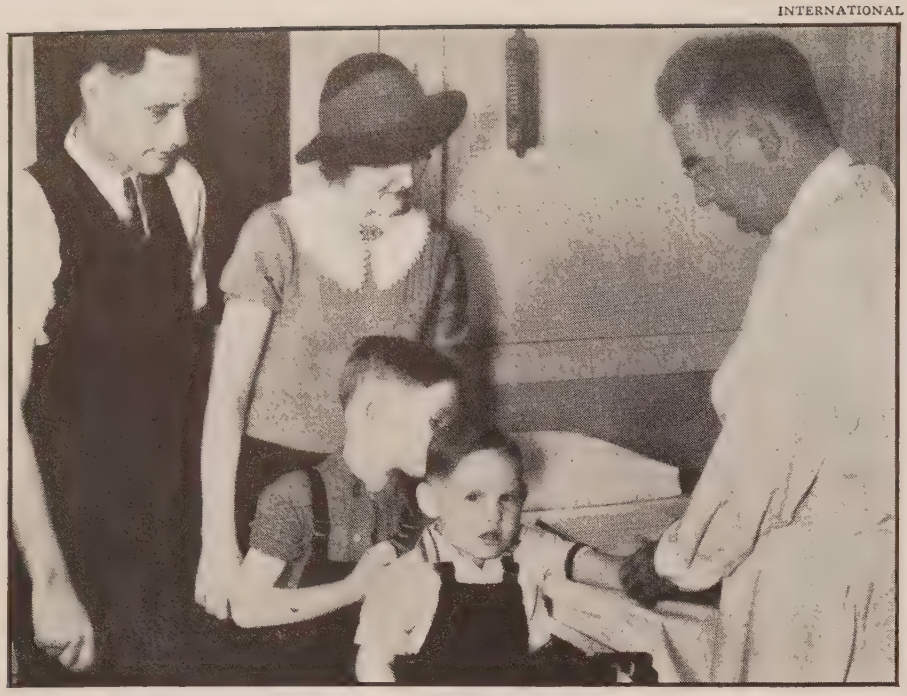
It has been estimated that there are twelve million syphilis cases in the United States, the equivalent of 10 per cent of the population. Surgeon General Parran believes that if all conditions due to syphilis were reported as such it "would be found the leading cause of death." Yet ignorance persists both as to prevention and treatment.

The Institute of Public Opinion put this question to representative Americans in every state in the Union:

*"Would you be in favor of a government bureau that would distribute information concerning venereal diseases?"*

Its weekly surveys are conducted by a nation-wide staff of more than six hundred interviewers and its officials watched anxiously to see how their question would be received. Canvassers would have to put the question to citizens in all walks of life; to men and women; to northerners and southerners; to young people just old enough to vote, and to their parents and grandparents.

INTERNATIONAL



**THE WHOLE FAMILY** arrives at the clinic for a Wassermann test, so successful has been the United States Health Service in educating the public. Heretofore, the greatest ally of venereal diseases has been the secrecy surrounding them

Would people answer the question, or would they be squeamish?

They answered eagerly.

Throughout the country 90 persons out of 100, on the average, voted "yes." It was the largest majority ever registered in an Institute poll on any proposition up to that time. Often voters were not content with a "yes" answer and would volunteer comments of their own.

SINCE THE publication of these findings in the newspapers which sponsored the researches, private bureaus have increased their educational activities and several more state and municipal health departments have begun to distribute information. But so far the federal government has not found the $25,000,000 which Surgeon General Parran estimates is necessary for beginning a federal program of education and treatment of this vitally important social problem.

If the decision were up to the public the Surgeon General would probably get his appropriation. In May the Institute asked voters: *"Should Congress appropriate $25,000,000 to help control venereal diseases?"* Seventy-nine per cent of those replying—or almost 4 out of 5—answered "yes."

The prevailing view was that of a filling-station attendant in a small Ohio town: "The money spent to control syphilis now would empty half our state institutions within a generation."

As a second step toward control of syphilis, voters favor setting up government clinics for the treatment of venereal disease. This proposition was put to the public in a survey made a year ago, and was carried by another topheavy majority of 88 per cent.

But clinics are only part of the answer, and dispute exists among medical men as to how far clinics should go in dispensing free treatment, out of the public treasury, for those unable to pay.

There is little dispute, however, among the rank and file on this point. They favor the widest possible treatment of the afflicted. Evidence comes from a survey last spring which asked:

*"As a means of controlling social diseases, do you favor free treatment for all persons afflicted, regardless of their circumstances?"*

Occasionally voters dissented, saying that well-to-do persons should be required to pay for clinical treatment; but a great majority of voters upheld the principle that treatment should be open to every afflicted person, without his ability to pay being a primary consideration. The vote was 77 per cent "yes"; 23 per cent "no."

The public would go even further. As a third step it would approve the punishment of known syphilitics who ignore the treatment provided for them. Similar provisions have been written into the law in Scandinavian countries, and, though the penalty is seldom invoked, it has established the idea that transmitting a venereal disease is a crime.

Seventy-three per cent of the voters reached said they would add "teeth" to the control program in this way.

A FOURTH innovation, which has tremendous support, is the requirement that engaged couples submit to a blood test for syphilis before marriage.

Connecticut and Illinois have been pioneers in this sort of legislation, and similar bills have been introduced in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Kansas. It is likely that lawmakers in other states will give consideration to premarital tests in coming sessions.

In July the Institute polled a cross-section of the United States on the principle of marriage tests, with a question which read:

*"Illinois has passed a law requiring a test for venereal disease for all persons*

**SYPHILIS SHOWS** in the cloudy test tube at the right, and the report will be rushed from the laboratory so that treatments may begin as soon as possible. Discovered in its early stages, syphilis may be arrested and generally cured

U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE PHOTO

*seeking marriage licenses. Would you favor such a law in this state?"*

Ninety-two per cent of those replying said "yes."

Ideally, public health specialists would like to give the complicated Wassermann to every adult in the country, but testing facilities are admittedly far from adequate. As the next best thing, health service people are quietly working to have Wassermanns included in life-insurance examinations, in the health examinations of large industrial establishments, and in routine hospital cases.

To estimate how many Americans would be willing to submit to Wassermanns, the United States Public Health Service last summer coöperated with the Chicago Board of Health in sending out questionnaires to every adult in Chicago. More than a million cards went out with the question: "In strict confidence and at no expense to you, would you like to be given by your physician a blood test for syphilis?"

U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE PHOTO

**BLOOD WILL TELL:** Syphilis may produce symptoms like those of other diseases, but a blood test tells the true story. State and private laboratories do this service for physicians; the poor may visit free clinics

REPLIES FROM hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans showed that approximately 96 per cent would be willing to take the tests. Health officials were unprepared for the overwhelming vote.

At the same time, the Institute of Public Opinion put the same question to a representative cross-section of voters in each of the forty-eight states. The results upheld the Chicago poll in an emphatic manner. City dwellers were found more willing to undergo the tests than country dwellers. But throughout the United States 87 per cent said they would take the tests. In the Institute's Chicago canvass, 95 per cent voted "yes."

The famous Chicago poll, and the Institute's own findings, indicate that public opinion is ready to go ahead with a crusade against a plague that has hitherto been barricaded behind almost impregnable taboos.

Most significant of all the findings in public opinion, perhaps, is the attitude of young persons toward the syphilis plague, for the records show that the venereal diseases attack a greater number of persons between twenty and thirty than at any later age.

These young voters highly approve of what health authorities consider a minimum program of action—a nation-wide campaign of education, government clinics, and marriage tests. They also approve punishment for "slackers."

The following table shows how the young people's vote compares with the vote of the country at large on the principal questions:

| | YOUNG PEOPLE | ALL U. S. |
|---|---|---|
| | *Percentage favoring* | |
| Government bureau to distribute information | 93 | 90 |
| Government clinics | 92 | 88 |
| Free treatment for all persons afflicted | 78 | 77 |
| Punishment of treatment "slackers" | 70 | 73 |
| Premarital tests | 94 | 93 |
| Willing to take Wassermanns | 90 | 87 |

The University of Minnesota and the University of Oklahoma are examples of schools that have experimented with compulsory syphilis tests. At the University of California and the University of California at Los Angeles, student editors are planning to renew their campaigns for the same thing.

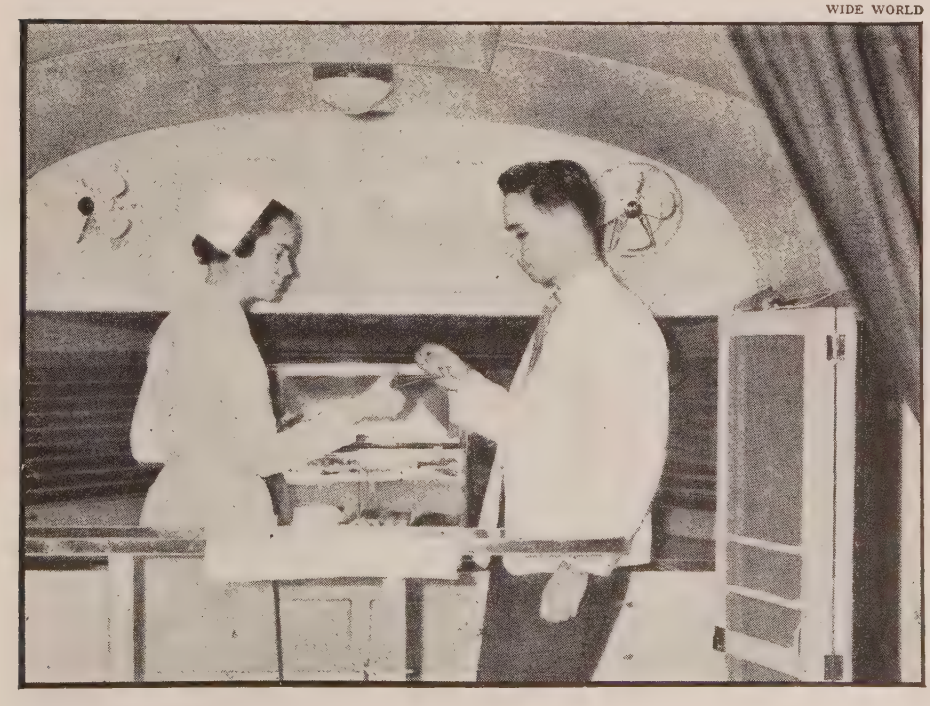
Following a student poll at the University of Kansas which showed almost unanimous sentiment for required Wassermanns, the university health service has undertaken to provide tests for all students who request them.

The year 1938 may see more manifestations of the same public opinion which was so strongly behind the collegiate campaigns of 1937.

—*George Gallup*

**CLINIC TRAILERS** for outlying districts are being demonstrated, equipped by United States Public Health Service with laboratory facilities for taking blood tests. It is estimated that one tenth of the population of the country is affected

WIDE WORLD



FOUR PHOTOS FROM SOVFOTO

# Red Army

**SOVIET STAR** is formed by Red military planes. The Russians, long air-minded, can land with parachutes many hundreds of men and machine guns back of enemy lines. Anti-aircraft machine guns, below, point upward

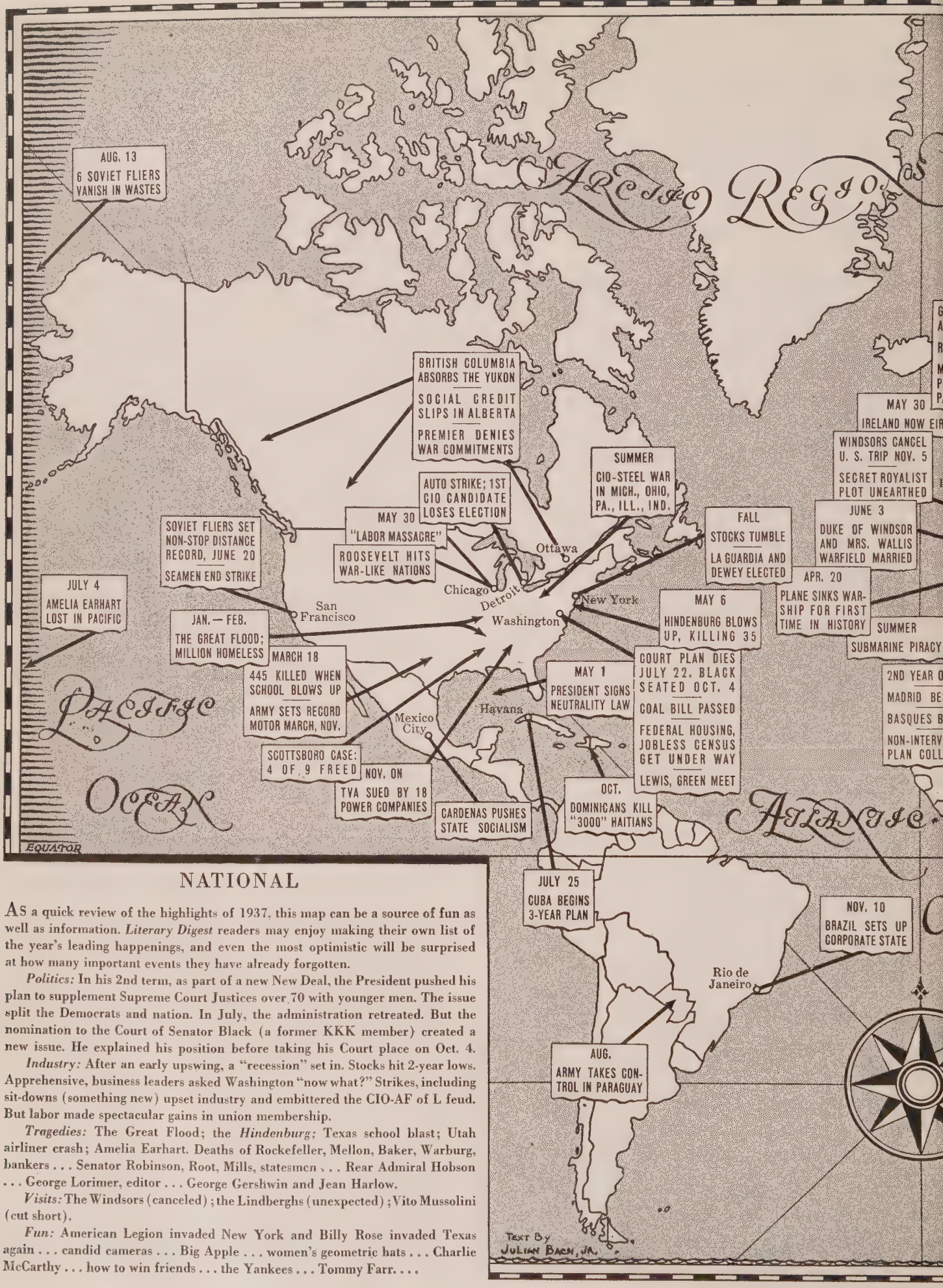
**WELL-EQUIPPED,** well-trained, well-fed, the Russian army is the largest in the world. More than 1,300,000 men are in the active army. Below, heavy artillery is pulled by tractor through Moscow's Red Square. In the far-flung reaches from the Arctic Ocean to Persia, reindeer and camels are also used. Almost limitless resources are available if Russia decides to interfere actively in China

EXCLUSIVE LITERARY DIGEST PHOTO FROM PRESLIT

# Looks East

**Will Russia's Red army lend large-scale assistance to the Chinese Communists, as persistent rumors would indicate?**

**FIFTY PER CENT** of the Red army are members of the Communist party, significant in a land of 170 million people where only about 3 million belong to the party. A group of typical Red infantrymen appears above; at the left is a military chemist directing a gas-defense drill in Leningrad; "Workers of the World, Unite," say the banners below in three languages as troops parade




## NATIONAL

AS a quick review of the highlights of 1937, this map can be a source of fun as well as information. *Literary Digest* readers may enjoy making their own list of the year's leading happenings, and even the most optimistic will be surprised at how many important events they have already forgotten.

*Politics:* In his 2nd term, as part of a new New Deal, the President pushed his plan to supplement Supreme Court Justices over 70 with younger men. The issue split the Democrats and nation. In July, the administration retreated. But the nomination to the Court of Senator Black (a former KKK member) created a new issue. He explained his position before taking his Court place on Oct. 4.

*Industry:* After an early upswing, a "recession" set in. Stocks hit 2-year lows. Apprehensive, business leaders asked Washington "now what?" Strikes, including sit-downs (something new) upset industry and embittered the CIO-AF of L feud. But labor made spectacular gains in union membership.

*Tragedies:* The Great Flood; the *Hindenburg;* Texas school blast; Utah airliner crash; Amelia Earhart. Deaths of Rockefeller, Mellon, Baker, Warburg, bankers . . . Senator Robinson, Root, Mills, statesmen . . . Rear Admiral Hobson . . . George Lorimer, editor . . . George Gershwin and Jean Harlow.

*Visits:* The Windsors (canceled); the Lindberghs (unexpected); Vito Mussolini (cut short).

*Fun:* American Legion invaded New York and Billy Rose invaded Texas again . . . candid cameras . . . Big Apple . . . women's geometric hats . . . Charlie McCarthy . . . how to win friends . . . the Yankees . . . Tommy Farr. . . .

## INTERNATIONAL

ALL sorts of wars came in 1937. *Old:* The 2nd year of the Spanish war, an international issue, saw the insurgent offensive make headway. *Undeclared:* Japan conquered North China, Shanghai and Nanking. *Secret:* Turks fought rebellious Kurds. *Colonial:* England battled tribes in Northwest India; France crushed an Arab revolt in Morocco; and Italy "pacified" still hostile Ethiopians.

*Coronations:* George VI of England; Farouk I of Egypt; and Janus Kwiek, a Polish boilermaker, as king of the gypsies.

*Assassination:* Iraq's military dictator. *Unsuccessful attempts:* on Poland's Col. Koc; Turkey's Foreign Minister Aras; Italy's Ethiopian Viceroy Graziani; Portugal's Premier Salazar; and Egypt's Premier Nasha.

*New Leaders:* Chamberlain (Great Britain); Janson (Belgium); Chautemps (France); Kallio (Finland); Ortiz (Argentine); Bayar (Turkey); Col. Busch (Bolivia); and Gen. Enriquez (Ecuador).

*Spectacles:* British Coronation and Naval Review; Moscow celebration of 20th anniversary of the Russian Revolution; 15th anniversary of Mussolini's March on Rome; annual Nazi Party rally at Nuremberg.

*New Pacts:* Germany-Italy-Japan against communism; Russia-China; Italy-Yugoslavia; Bulgaria-Yugoslavia; Turkey-Iran-Iraq-Afghanistan; Honduras-Guatemala-Salvador; and seven Pan-American peace pacts.

*Economics:* Armament boom in England . . . the French franc danced dizzily . . . Germans in the 4th year of nazi-ism, Italians in the 15th year of fascism, and Russians in the 20th year of communism tightened their collective belts.

PHOTOS FROM INTERNATIONAL

**CAGOULARD** arms caches were discovered by Paris detectives in obscure cellars. This submachine gun was hidden in a packing case under wine bottles

**FRENCH KKK "ARMY"** allegedly consisted of three Arabs, two of whom are shown as they were taken into custody by police. The other 24 arrested were said to be "officers"

# No King for France

THERE IS about as much likelihood of a Bourbon restoration in France as there is of reëstablishing the King of England in the United States. Yet France probably has more royalist parties or groups than any other country. This phenomenon results from a combination of peculiarities in French character and of machinations of the parties of the Left.

The fact is, monarchy ceased to be a political issue in France following the surrender of Napoleon III in 1870, but it remained as a romantic symbol which appealed to certain writers and others who were shocked by the crudities of the Republic. Also it appealed to young students who, lacking the American fraternity system, needed to bestow their devotion and direct their energies on some "cause." Equally unimportant support for the pretender came from old duffers among the late aristocracy, who fed their egos by remembering the "glorious past" when grandpa was somebody at court.

If any serious platform can be pointed to, it was that monarchy stood for decentralization of government, along the lines of states' rights in America, though today this is at some variance with the principles of the fascists who are now hand-in-glove with the monarchists. The French are by nature complainers and objectors. Whatever the government in power, however well it may function, there are always a dozen active groups ready to protest the most unimportant happening. Some of these opposition parties have no sound platform but depend upon arbitrary standards around which to rally their forces. Monarchy is as good as any.

The parties of the Left are far from displeased with such a situation. It is much more dramatic to save the Republic from a restoration of the Bourbons than to save the government from a mere change of premier. Indeed, the Leftists have tried in every way to build up the importance of such a plot as the recent Cagoulard affair. They deliberately let the plot ripen to the point where, with all the romantic character of a Dumas novel or a 1920 movie, the police could sweep down upon the plotters and "save the country from a revolution."

Such farces are good politics in France. Not only is the opposition thus discredited, but the parties of the Popular Front (the government now in power) are more firmly united. In this instance the Communists, who were about to withdraw their support and bring about the overthrow of the government, were drawn back into the fold, temporarily, by fear of exchanging the present Socialist regime for another farther to the Right.

There are in France eight groups or parties more or less committed to the idea of a monarchy, besides two that are merely fascist. But their total number of sympathizers is probably well under a million, while active members appear to number fewer than 100,000 or about one 450th of the population. Exact figures are carefully concealed because they are inevitably so low.

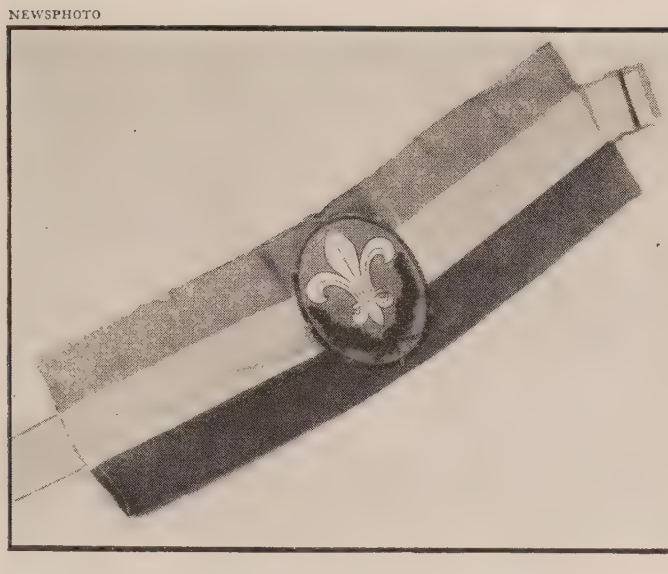
The oldest of the royalist groups is the Action Française, founded in 1905 in a mild wave of reaction from thirty-five years of "wasteful" democratic government and in opposition to the anti-church laws of the period. It favors the restoration "by force" of the Bourbon-Orleans family. Because it is strongly pro-Catholic it receives support from the ardently religious as well as from the families of former nobles. It is also anti-Semitic. Membership is estimated variously from 50,000 to 250,000, largely based upon the circulation of its newspaper (also called *Action Française*), one of the most distinguished literary publications in France.

Leaders of the party are Charles Maurras and Léon Daudet, son of the writer

**ALLEGED LEADER** of the Cagoulards is Duke Joseph Pozzo di Borgo, former associate of Col. de la Rocque

WIDE WORLD

NEWSPHOTO



**ONLY THREE ARMBANDS** for the Cagoulard "army" have been discovered. The ribbon is the French tricolor with royalist fleur de lys emblem in metal

INTERNATIONAL

**SURÊTÉ POLICE** search the dungeons of Arques la Bataille, historic ruin from which William the Conqueror set sail for the chalk cliffs of England in 1066

Alphonse Daudet. They are also the editors of the newspaper. Daudet formerly was a forceful member of the Chamber of Deputies, but was defeated some years ago. Aside from occasional meetings without much significance, the Action Française does little to gain its avowed ends. Curiously, it has been disowned by both the Bourbon pretender and the Pope.

Affiliated with it are the troublesome Camelots du Roi (Hawkers of the King), composed largely of students who take the slightest excuse to precipitate street riots and disturbances, though their objective in this is hard to find other than a desire for publicity.

Two other groups similar to the Camelots (and with objectives just about as vague) are the Solidarité Française, founded by the perfume manufacturer, the late François Coty, and the Jeunesses Patriotes founded by Pierre Taittinger, newspaper publisher and former deputy.

**BOURBON PRETENDER** to the French throne is the Duke of Guise, who lives in exile in Belgium

EUROPEAN

Constitutional Monarchists are royalists of the parliamentary type who believe in restoration as a result of plebiscite.

The French Social Party is the legalized name of the old Croix de Feu, of which Col. François de la Rocque is leader. Its aims are similar to those of fascism in Germany and Italy, though it professes not to be anti-Semitic. Its methods are strictly along legal lines rather than force of arms. Membership is about the same as that of the Action Française. In this case, however, monarchist aims are only incidental to fascist objectives.

All these groups favor one of the Bourbons as the future king of France: the present pretender, the Duke of Guise, or his son, the Count of Paris. Both are now in exile. The Duke is too clever to affiliate himself with any one group, claiming that "the monarchy is not a party" but a method of government. It is significant, however, that Colonel de la Rocque's brother was formerly an equerry in the service of the Bourbons.

Still another group, though a very small one, is made up of the supporters of the Napoleonic pretender Louis, great-great-grandson of Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, who was a brother of the Little Corporal.

Two more groups which, though fascist, can hardly be called royalist, are the Françists of Marcel Bucard, a pale imitation of Hitler's brown shirts, and the Popular party of Jacques Doriot, a former Communist leader who has gathered around him a number of malcontents.

Of all these groups, the only one to make any serious impression on recent French political life is the Croix de Feu, whose tactics were patterned on those of Hitler prior to his election to power in Germany. But la Rocque's efforts to organize a private army were defeated by the government, and he then turned his energies to gaining power through the election of his representatives to parliament. In this he has not been successful, the last vote showing but slight gain.

Within the original Croix de Feu, however, were many members who favored direct and forceful action for seizing political power. Notable among these were the Duke Pozzo di Borgo and a former general of aviation named Duseigneur. It is these two who are accused as leaders of the Secret Committee of Revolutionary Action, popularly known as the Cagoulards, or Hooded Ones.

Secret societies have a strange fascination, and they have been popping up in France since well before the French Revolution. Heretofore they have been on the liberal rather than the conservative side, a significant change in European politics.

Actually the Cagoulards have been made to appear vastly more important than the facts so far disclosed about them would warrant. In the first place the name Cagoulards (Hooded Ones) is a beautiful piece of journalistic fiction, since no hoods have been found. Seizures by the police consist of no more than 20 revolvers, 78 army rifles, 92 machine and submachine guns, 80 hunting rifles, 119,438 rounds of ammunition, 2935 grenades, and bombs, some belts, some cartridge holders, 45 screwdrivers, some electric batteries, and 3 armbands.

It is noticeable that the police have made a point of searching in the most romantic spots, such as the subterranean passages of the 10th-century castle of Arques la Bataille near Dieppe which has been a public museum for a hundred years, in the famous sewers of Paris, and on the estate of the late François Coty. Did someone say romance was dead? The actual caches were found in more obscure cellars, together with what the police claimed were instruments of torture and other diabolical contrivances.

Alleged members of the order arrested so far number 27, of whom three are

**CROIX DE FEU LEADER** Colonel François de la Rocque

NEWSPHOTO

**"SECRET GOVERNMENT FUNDS"** from ex-Premier Tardieu (ext. left) supplied la Rocque with needed money. At right, royalist leader Léon Daudet

INTERNATIONAL

**SUPPOSED CAGOULARD** leaders included Henri Deloncle, lawyer (above), and Air General Duseigneur (below). Both are now imprisoned

Arabs from Algeria, for whom the three armbands were doubtless destined—the "rank and file of the army" as it were!

In addition to the duke and the general mentioned earlier, the band consisted of a lawyer named *Henri Deloncle;* Moreau de la Meuse, an industrialist; an architect, a sergeant of aviation, and others whose names were equally unknown prior to their arrest. Alleged documents showed that their object was "to attempt by force of arms to seize power and institute a dictatorship as a prelude to the reëstablishment of the monarchy."

The source of funds for this plan still remains in doubt. Statements that Germany and Italy were backing the Cagoulards were immediately made by the Left. Doubtless those countries would be glad to see the Socialists overthrown in France. However, it is more likely that the money was supplied by certain French industrialists who have always been ready to support any movement that would embarrass democratic government, just as big business men in Germany supported Hitler prior to his election. Such money passes without record, and no industrialist or financier has yet been named.

One source of revenue for the old Croix de Feu was the government itself, according to former Premier Tardieu, who admitted giving la Rocque cash from the "secret fund" which is used by every French government to conduct underground operations. This in no way compromises the present Popular Front government, since Tardieu is of a group somewhat farther to the Right. But it does weaken the standing of la Rocque that he accepted such financial aid.

Thus the facts do not indicate that the Republic of France, with its 45,000,000 liberal-thinking people, was in any great danger of being overthrown by 27 men with 20 revolvers and 3 armbands. Nor are the names of the men arrested sufficiently important to sway any considerable popular opinion. It is rumored that the homes of General Weygand (a national military hero) and of André Tardieu have been raided in the search for arms, but both men deny this.

And yet the Cagoulards affair has a significance not apparent on the surface. This goes back to February 6, 1934, when members of the parties of the Right marched on the Chamber of Deputies with the object of overthrowing the government of the day (then more or less compromised by the Stavisky scandal) and seizing power in the name of "law and order." Their leader was the fascist Colonel de la Rocque. For a brief period it looked as though he might succeed temporarily, but the only real result was to unite the parties of the Left into the Popular Front, in power ever since.

There was another result of la Rocque's attempted coup in 1934, which was less apparent, namely that both sides, Left as well as Right, immediately started to arm in secret. Arms were plentiful in France, destined in theory for one or other sides of the struggle in Spain. It was comparatively easy for those aiding Franco or the Spanish loyalists to set aside from every shipment a few rifles for use at home. Under the surface of French life was an undercurrent of menace, a threat of revolution on the order of that in neighboring Spain.

Now, however, that threat has been removed. The police, by letting the Cagoulard plot mature to the point where they could make numerous seizures at a prearranged moment, have placed the Popular Front in the position of having saved France from fascism and revolution. The voters will not be allowed to forget this. Furthermore, la Rocque, now accused of having been a traitor to the Cagoulards, has been completely discredited. It is a master stroke for the parties of the Left.

*—Jacques Baron and Morrill Cody*

# Reading Around the World

## *a timely digest of the best in print and on the air*

### GERMAN COLONIES

*from "The Contemporary Review," London*

SIMPLE arithmetic shows that out of a total 1,140,000 square miles taken from Germany as a result of the war, 826,000 square miles, or more than two-thirds, were added to the British Empire. The fact that in juridical theory the new acquisitions are held, not as "swag," but as a "sacred trust" of civilization, means only that the resident officials once a year have to spend some hours in writing a report to the League of Nations.

Eighteen years after the transfer of those territories to their new owners, the principle is still maintained that Germany may not have colonies. Britain may; France may; Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Holland, Spain may have colonies. But not Germany. So say the Versailles Powers. They also said that Germany should pay reparations. They went on saying it until Germany stopped paying and then they not only posthumously "allowed" her to stop paying, but gave her loans as well. They said she should forever remain disarmed, while they themselves were armed.

Herr Stresemann and Dr. Brüning patiently, correctly, pleaded for "equality." It was denied. Herr Hitler was thereby imposed upon Germany. He defied Versailles and rearmed Germany. Yet the comic (if it be not worse) pretense is still kept up that Germany alone of all the nations can be forced forever to abjure colonies. She has not yet made the gesture of defiance in that particular matter; and, therefore, there is still time for common sense to prevail. It is still possible for Great Britain, say, to make the opposite gesture, to offer back to Germany some of the colonies formerly belonging to her, and thus to reap the benefit in good will of doing the obviously right thing spontaneously.

In the alternative no one doubts that Germany will somehow or other follow the example of Italy in Abyssinia and of Japan in China and simply take what she wants. It will then be too late to do other than accept the accomplished fact.—*George Glasgow*

### RADIO ETHICS

*broadcast over CBS Network*

IF I were discussing broadcasting in the countries of the dictators I should have a simple story to tell. In those countries broadcasting has been owned by the state and used by the state to mold the people's will.

In America it has been different. We were pioneers and there was no authoritarian hand to mark out a path for us. In the beginning we stumbled and we groped. We saw only dimly the possibilities of mass communication, the complex and often conflicting avenues that were open to us. Economic necessity was driving the man in the street, the man in the factory, and the man on the farm to take a deeper and more active interest in the public affairs and politics of his country.

Naturally, once so powerful a thing as broadcasting had proved itself, all sorts of people and all sorts of interests wanted to use it for all sorts of purposes. Particularly in the realm of public affairs did we need, as we grew in experience, to develop a code of ethics.

Broadcasting as an instrument of American democracy must forever be wholly, honestly and militantly non-partisan. This is true not only in politics, but in the whole realm of arguable social ideas.

We must never have an editorial page, we must never seek to maintain views of our own on any public question except broadcasting itself. Moreover, we must never try to further either side of any debatable question, regardless of our own private and personal sympathies. I state this principle of non-partisanship first and I state it as emphatically as I can because I believe this is the cornerstone of democratic broadcasting.

Why may the press be as editorially partisan as it pleases, while we may not? For the reason that there can be an unlimited number of publications devoted to countless purposes, whereas the number of broadcasters is rigidly limited for physical reasons; and therefore an editorial attitude on the part of broadcasters would always carry with it the danger of one side of a vital argument's being maintained preponderantly or even exclusively.

Freedom of the air means the right of a speaker to express any views he may hold on any question of general interest. If he is not libelous or otherwise unlawful, if he is not obscene, if he does not seek to provoke racial or religious hatred, he may say what he pleases over the air.

No discussion must ever be one-sided so long as there can be found anyone to take the other side. The party in power must never dominate the air. No

### THIS WEEK


| | |
|---|---|
| German Colonies | *Contemporary Review* |
| Radio Ethics | *CBS Network* |
| Was War Worth It? | *Richmond Times-Dispatch* |
| The Crying Desert | *Avondpost, The Hague* |
| Automobile Manners | *Father Meets Son* |
| Will Russia Fight Now? | *Defense Quarterly* |
| Fate of the Appendix | *American Mercury* |
| Marijuana Menace | *Mutual Network* |
| Big Diamond | *Avocations* |
| Telephoning in Britain | *Geographic Bulletin* |
| Smile Testing | *Omaha World-Herald* |
| American Tax Bill | *Fortune* |
| Red Servant Problem | *Novoye Russkoye Slovo* |
| They Cannot Return | *Revista de Revistas* |
| Why Laws Fail | *CBS Network* |

## Photo of the Week

WIDE WORLD

**CLOUDS OF SNOW** in their wake, shadows racing ahead, these skiers speed along a downhill run at Adelboden, Switzerland.—*New York Times*

majority must ever monopolize. Minorities must always have opportunities to express their views.

We (the Columbia Broadcasting System) do not sell time for propaganda. By propaganda we mean any attempt to influence legislation, regulation, taxation and the like.

Despite the tempting revenue we might derive from such sales, we decided against them. The sole exception to this policy is the sale of time to political parties during an actual election campaign.—*William S. Paley, president, Columbia Broadcasting System*

### WAS WAR WORTH IT?

*from "Richmond Times-Dispatch"*

BY FAR the most outstanding and instructive case on freedom of speech and of the press that occurred in Virginia during the World War (and one of the most notable in the nation), was that of Professor Leon R. Whipple, director of the school of journalism at the University of Virginia, who was dismissed for "unpatriotic and disloyal, if not seditious, utterances." Public furor followed Professor Whipple's speech at Sweet Briar College, in which he said peace was better and more logical than war.

"I am a pacifist for the plain logical reason that war just does not work," Mr. Whipple told the Current Events Club at Sweet Briar. "War does not remove the menace of autocracy, or make the world safe for democracy, or even protect our own democracy. I believe we can still make the United States glorious by its stand for peace, despite the fact that the nation sacrificed its greatest opportunity when it entered the war. . . . That is why I gave money to the cause of Morris Hillquit instead of investing it in Liberty Bonds at 4 per cent."

For these words, Mr. Whipple was drummed out of a state where freedom of speech was an historic principle, by outraged officialdom and by astounded patriots whose thought in those days had been well regimented, even if they were not in uniform. Senator Thomas S. Martin said this professor was not fit to instruct Virginia youth, and Governor Stuart called upon the rector and board of visitors of the university to take prompt action, adding that "men of Professor Whipple's way of thinking would find no countenance anywhere in Virginia."

The professor who had dared to stand up against the dollar-a-year-men and the minute men was hissed all over the state. The state press had joined up for the World War emergency, and free speech found no friends in that direction in this celebrated case. What couldn't be understood then—to quote the speech a distinguished Richmond alumnus of the University of Virginia made to the University Club here at the time—was the "operation of a man's mind who will stand up and have himself kicked all over the country."

Mr. Whipple was kicked upstairs. He became a professor of journalism at New York University, and one of the editors of the *Survey Graphic*. He has had a successful career as a writer. The twentieth anniversary of his dismissal from the University of Virginia seemed to us to be worth a rather extended review. For here was a man who'd rather be right—and who really was, in his predictions as to the results of the war.

And if the sacrosanct Liberty Bond hadn't been immune from criticism by a regimented press, this government maybe wouldn't have loaned $100,000,000 to the provisional government of Russia when it was bankrupt and on the brink of revolution. And maybe a lot of other things wouldn't have happened—like sending the American expeditionary force to Archangel to fight with the White Russians [against the Bolsheviks] after the World War was over.

### THE CRYING DESERT

*from "Avondpost," The Hague*

FOR many years geographers in South Africa were kept busy seeking the cause of the crying sand in the vast Kalahari desert.

The sand dunes, at certain times, make the most peculiar noises, usually like the beating of a far-off drum. The land drones with every footstep. When one sifts the sand through his fingers, he hears this extraordinary noise, too.

Recently the South African Society of Geographers of Johannesburg started extensive research to determine the cause of the crying sand. The president of the society, and four assistants analyzed and studied the sand for several weeks and arrived at the conclusion that the noises were caused by the numerous grains of silica in the sand. They occupy a certain

position in relation to one another, just as in a radio set.

These grains pick up noises, convey them to one another, increase in volume, and thus produce sounds which terrify white people who have to spend the night in the desert.

## AUTOMOBILE MANNERS
### *from "Father Meets Son"*

IN THE twenty-five years that I have been driving automobiles, I have never met anyone who had an accident through his own fault—it was the car, the road, or the Other Fellow. Mostly, the Other Fellow.

This Other Fellow is worth some study. There seems to be no escaping him. To look at him, you would think he was harmless, but last year he killed more than fifty thousand people and injured nearly a million. I have seen the Other Fellow, and certainly he doesn't look like a killer. Sometimes he is a young, nice-looking kid like you. Sometimes he is a mild-looking, middle-aged fellow like me. Sometimes he is a gentle sweet little woman like your mother, but that only goes to show that you can't judge by appearances. He's a killer, and no mistake, and something is going to be done about it—or is it?

Some time ago, the champion safety driver of one of the largest bus companies in the world was given a banquet and a medal. He had completed half a million miles without an accident.

When they called on him for a speech, he rose bashfully and said: "I ain't much of a hand at making speeches. I suppose you want to know how I got away so long without no accidents? I got just one rule. I drive like the other fellow was crazy."

So that seems to explain it. The Other Fellow is crazy. If you cut out of line on a two-lane road, don't expect him to let you push him into a ditch, so you can cut in again. If you pass a car on a blind curve, don't expect the fellow coming the other way to be sensible about it and go off the road and out into the field to let you by. He's just crazy enough to run right into you because you are on his side of the road.

If you speed through a main intersection, you will meet a lot of crazy people who think they have the right of way because they are on a through boulevard and you are coming in off a side street. If you like to pass on a hill, don't be surprised if a car comes over the crest and the driver doesn't either leap over you or run under you. That would be the sane thing to do, of course, but, you see, he's crazy.

Yes, he's crazy, but you are rude—and that's what makes him crazy. It doesn't matter so much if you are walking down the street and you are rude enough to push someone aside, but if you are rude enough to push him aside with a three-ton automobile going sixty miles an hour, you'll kill him.

You can elbow your way through a crowd, if you are impolite, and do no damage at all. But when you elbow your way through traffic with your bad manners stepped up a hundred horsepower, you're bound to do a lot of damage to a lot of innocent people.

For every accident caused by high speeding, there are a thousand caused by low breeding. Is it coincidence that the nation which leads in fatalities lags in formalities? The American may not be the most uncivil citizen on two feet, but he is certainly the prize terror on four wheels.

Today we put a premium on agility rather than civility. Each year our manners become cruder as our gasoline becomes more refined. Wide roads won't prevent accidents, so long as they continue to fill up with narrow people. Good brakes on cars are no protection against bad breaks in behavior. The growing problem of automobile fatalities will not be solved around the drafting board, but around the family table. Then we can have a monster under the hood, because there will be a gentleman at the wheel.—*J. P. McEvoy* (J. B. Lippincott Co., $1.00).

## WILL RUSSIA FIGHT NOW?
### *from "Canadian Defense Quarterly"*

IN BOTH the political and military sphere, Soviet Russia is probably in a better position to intervene in the Sino-Japanese conflict than at any time since the inception of the present regime. The stiffening attitude of Great Britain and France in respect to European affairs has eased the Soviet's worries about the security of its western frontier. China is displaying a degree of unity which has surprised the world, and Japan, by her attitude, stands condemned in the eyes of world opinion.

On the military side the center of gravity of the Soviet's industry has now been moved east of the Urals; the Trans-Siberian Railway has now been double-tracked to Chita; and, in consequence, it would appear that the Far Eastern Soviet Army with its twelve to fifteen well equipped divisions and three to five hundred aircraft, can be effectively maintained throughout a long campaign.

But, in spite of conditions now apparently favorable to the Soviet, Japan continues her southward march into Chinese territory. The reasons for the immediate policies of these countries afford interesting grounds for speculation.

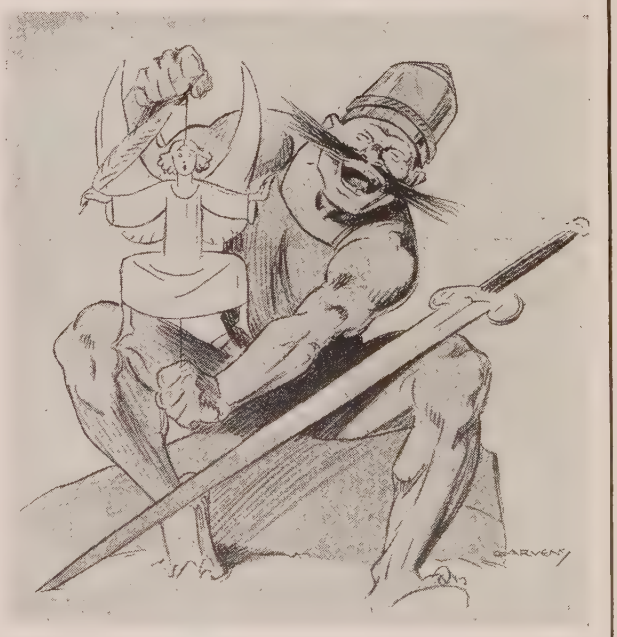
It should be noted that Japan's inception of hostilities in North China coincided with a tense situation in Europe centered in the Mediterranean region, and followed a series of border incidents on the Manchukuan-Siberian frontier which, some authorities contend, were initiated by Japan to test out the readiness of the Soviet for war.

The Soviet Government did not make a major issue out of the border clashes and gave the impression that it wished, almost at all costs, to avoid armed conflict with Japan.

This impression tended to verify Japanese opinion that the events which led up to the so-called "purging" of the Red Army were not limited to the high command, but reflected a general condition of unrest and disloyalty common to the military as a whole. An army in this condition was unfit for war, therefore the Japanese appear to have concluded that the time was opportune to adopt more forceful methods in China, which country, incidentally, through the process of unification, reorganization and rearmament, was becoming more formidable each day. And so the die was cast and the present phase of the Sino-Japanese war began.

It is possible that the Japanese estimate of the present condition of the Red Army is correct. On the other hand it may be quite erroneous. The fact that the Soviet has not intervened so far does not neces-

## Cartoon of the Week



War and Peace.—*Kladderadatsch, Berlin*

**A rush job.**—*The Dallas Journal*

sarily mean that it will not do so. It is doubtful whether the Soviet will stand by in peaceful inactivity and watch Japan take over control of, for instance, the coal mines of Shansi province which now provide about 50 per cent of the coal used in China.

The time to judge the Soviet, and particularly the true condition of its armed forces, has not yet arrived. That time will come only when the Japanese war machine becomes thoroughly involved, gets into its stride and appears likely to succeed in its mission of subjugating the northern provinces.

If the Soviet does not then intervene, one can conclude that the Japanese estimate of the condition of the Soviet's armed forces was and is correct.

If, on the other hand, the Soviet should intervene, then the whole course of events in the Far East will enter a new phase and Japan, particularly if she rides roughshod over the interests of the western powers in the course of her military success, will be confronted with the gravest crisis in her career as a great power.

## FATE OF THE APPENDIX

### *from "The American Mercury"*

APPENDICITIS has become, like no other disease, the pet of every organ of enlightenment and blah. The radio, through innumerable discourses by selfless practitioners, spreads the gospel to every hamlet. The newspapers, from editorial page to Sunday supplement, stint no space in ballyhooing each new wrinkle in treatment and diagnosis. Board of Health releases, in pamphlets, on subway cards, in letters to parents of schoolchildren, urge the deadliness of the belly-ache and nourish appendicitis-consciousness. Better advertised than other afflictions, the ailment has become the special favorite of the hypochondriac.

A full-blown gangrenous appendix, leaking pus into the peritoneal cavity, is certainly short of a blessing, and the thoroughly sound policy has developed of "going in" early when once the diagnosis is made (mortality 2 to 5 per cent), and so forestalling perforation and widespread peritonitis (mortality 50 per cent). Yet it is just here that a dark form becomes discernible in the woodpile. For where hesitation in diagnosing acute appendicitis carries deadly potentialities, the responsibility for postponing operation is not one your doctor likes. Even in the best-manned hospitals, therefore, a number of innocent appendixes are removed every year in deliberate preference to allowing guilty ones to escape.

What makes all this free-wheeling vivisection possible is the almost complete disappearance in our time of resistance to surgery. Going under the knife is now pretty much in a class with having a tooth pulled. The fear of death in the face of an operation, the will-making and farewells that the prospect of surgery brought on in the past, are now a matter for jest.

The answer stands large. Fewer are dying of being operated on, but many, many more are coming to operation—too many needlessly.

Inflamed by the *fervor operandi* and the true spirit of mass production, some of our more visionary surgeons have lately gone stumping for universal appendectomy as a prophylactic measure. Their arguments are all good arguments, and eminently scientific:

1. You cannot have appendicitis when you haven't an appendix.

2. Appendicitis is an ever-lurking danger.

3. The appendix serves no particular physiologic purpose.

There is, however, one argument no one has brought forward: there would be 130,000,000 appendixes to take out. And an unlimited supply for future use.

And so the annual number of appendectomies is greatest where diagnostic discrimination is least.

The survivors, growing in numbers daily, permeate all classes, every walk of life. At the bar and in the office, in the club locker-room and on the beach sands, around the bridge table and on the fire-escapes—wherever veterans foregather, you hear the amazingly glib patter about adhesions, ruptured appendixes, time under ether, the relative merits of spinal and gas anesthesia.

Appendectomies are a national institution—but fashions do change. Already the distant clamor of oncoming competitors can be heard, all vying for popular interest—hormones and vitamins, allergic reactions.

Perhaps when having your appendix removed is no longer a stimulating adventure, when it has finally been overadvertised into matter-of-factness, the appendix will join the lowly and unheralded tonsils as a source of income.—*Martin O. Gannett*

## MARIJUANA MENACE

### *broadcast over Mutual Network*

THE dangerous narcotic drug marijuana grows wild in almost every state in the Union and therefore is easily obtainable. Not only does it grow in the countryside, but along the roadsides and in the vacant lots of our cities as well. In many cities its presence was first discovered when health officials surveyed vacant lots in a drive to destroy ragweed and other noxious plants. Because it grows in so many different places, it has become the cheapest of all drugs.

It is estimated the Narcotic Bureau of the New York Police Department in 1936 alone destroyed almost 40,000 pounds of marijuana plants, found growing within the city limits. Because of its rapidly increasing use, marijuana demands a price as high as $60 a pound.

While city officials have destroyed hundreds of thousands of plants, those parasitic criminals who traffic in the drug plant the seed in open lots, where it grows without the need of cultivation. Then, under cover of darkness, the weed is harvested, dried and its leaves made into cigarettes. These cigarettes are sometimes called reefers and are also known as "goof butts," "muggles," "tea," or "gage." They are bootlegged at prices ranging from 5 to 50 cents.

The drug is considered more dangerous than cocaine or opium, neither of which will grow in this country.

While medical men and scientists have disagreed as to the properties of marijuana and some have been inclined to minimize its harmfulness, records offer ample evidence that it has a disastrous effect on many of its users.

Marijuana is the same as Indian hemp,

hashish, or cannabis. Marijuana is the Mexican term. The plant was known to the Greeks as *nepenthe*. Its use in Egypt has been common since ancient times and has continued down to the present. The natives of the Malay Peninsula while under its effect have been known to engage in violent and bloody deeds with complete disregard for their personal safety.—*Clarence V. Beck, Attorney General of Kansas*

## BIG DIAMOND

### *from "Avocations"*

THE story of the Jonker diamond, the world's most brilliant gem, reads like a romance that recalls the magic carpet of Bagdad. Found among the alluvial sands of Elandsfontein, Pretoria, in January, 1934, this piece of stone, the size of a hen's egg, brought peace and joy not only to its finder but to his patient wife and seven children and to worthy neighbors who, like the finder, were struggling along at a squatter's life of poverty and want. Jacobus Jonker, finder of the famous gem, always kept poking around for elusive stones.

One day a terrific rain and windstorm lashed the countryside, washing away the surface soil and leaving a freshened layer of gravel. When the storm died down, a native was set to work and Jacobus Jonker watched every stone that was washed, looking for marks of the precious gem. An earth-encrusted stone caught his gaze and just by chance he picked it up and scrubbed it a bit. The glint that met his eyes made them widen to the popping point.

"I've found it!" he shouted. And with the stone grasped tightly in his hand he hurried to his small hut to break the glorious news to his family. Before retiring for the night he placed the stone carefully and reverently in a stocking and tied this about the neck of Mrs. Jonker. Early the next day the stone was deposited in the vaults of the Diamond Corporation. The stone weighed 726 carats in the rough, and brought about $315,000. One of the first things Jonker did was to purchase a house with green shutters, a lifelong ambition, and after this an auto for his son and three pairs of trousers for himself.

The large diamond was sent to London and pronounced by experts the finest of the large diamonds, as it possessed the rare and highly prized blue-white color. A New York gem dealer purchased the stone and in June, 1935, it was carefully wrapped and shipped to the United States in a registered mail package with only 64 cents postage! After passing through the customs the package was delivered to the American Museum of Natural History. It was placed on exhibition several days later and people stood in long queues each of the four days it was on view.

The cleaving of the stone was so dangerous an operation that Lloyd's would not insure it against loss. In cutting the stone a disk saw of phosphor-bronze was used which turned at the rate of 5000 revolutions per minute. So hard was the diamond that the operation required anxious months.

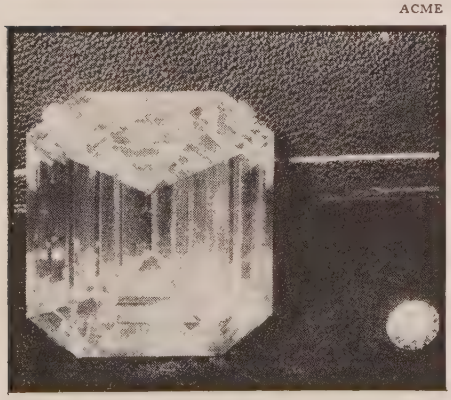
Twelve flawless brilliant blue-white gems were the result.

The largest of the twelve diamonds is known as the No. 1 Jonker and weighs 143 carats. Had weight not been sacrificed for perfection in cutting the largest of these diamonds, it would have been cut to weigh 180 to 200 carats. The other carats were polished away in cutting.

Gemologists agree unquestionably that the Jonker No. 1 diamond is the rarest in the world and as such it is difficult to place a definite value on it. It is insured by the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company for $1,000,000.—*Francis Lake*

**JONKER NO. 1, pictured with an average-sized stone, weighs 143 carats. It is the largest of the twelve diamonds cut from the original Jonker diamond**

ACME



**A possible solution? Germany wants colonies, the Philippines want protection from Japan, and we want—out.—*Daily News, New York***

## TELEPHONING IN BRITAIN

### *from "Geographic News Bulletin"*

ONE of the first Britishers to own a telephone was Queen Victoria. After she had listened with delight to experiments of singing over the instrument, a set of ivory telephones was presented to her by their Scottish-born American inventor, Alexander Graham Bell. Early telephones were installed in pairs, unconnected with any others, and the people at each end of the line could talk only with each other.

Fifty-eight years ago, not long after Queen Victoria had acquired her telephones, London installed its first telephone exchange, with only seven or eight subscribers.

In the United States a commercial switchboard had already been in use for a year. It had been installed in New Haven, Connecticut, on January 28, 1878. Its first operators were boys. Instead of saying "Hello," they shouted "Ahoy, ahoy," a nautical term not out of place in seafaring New England.

The same mouthpiece was used for transmitting and receiving. A notice near the instrument read, "Don't talk with your ear, nor listen with your mouth." After the speaker had learned to operate the machine he had to shout to make himself heard above the shriekings and moanings of outside disturbances that came over the wire.

Today, more than ever before, the telephone lives up to its name, which means literally "far-off sound." Cables in the English Channel and the North Sea connect London's more than a million telephones directly with those of France, Belgium and the Netherlands, and indirectly, with those of other countries of Europe.

When Londoners heard an American in New York say "Hello, London," on January 7, 1927, the first commercial service between the two cities was inaugurated. Now this service, by radio phone across the Atlantic, is constantly in use. In early

In darkest British Africa.—*Glasgow Record*

days of the transatlantic service, English and American telephone operators used to exchange views during lulls. Now that the novelty of telescoped space has worn off, they merely exchange greetings.

## SMILE TESTING

### *from "Omaha World-Herald"*

Professor Paul Thomas Young, of the University of Illinois psychology department, has been conducting a series of novel "smile" tests among the university students and has found that smiles and laughter are four hundred times more prevalent than scowls, tears and frowns.

The 400 to 1 ratio is general among men as well as women.

Among his campus conclusions are the following:

College girls do not cry more than once every 20 days. They smile from 50 to 100 times a day and laugh on an average of 20 times a day.

Women who have reached their thirtieth milestone weep 30 times more often than men. Men, on the contrary, laugh, smile and joke 10 times as often as the womenfolk.

Weeps are caused 80 to 90 per cent of the time by environment. Smiles are caused 98 per cent of the time by social contacts.

The chief causes of joy and gloom among college girls are traced to class grades. Second on the list of causes are letters, either received or not received.

## AMERICAN TAX BILL

### *from "Fortune"*

An outspoken analysis of the United States tax system is in order. That tax system is the most complicated and disorderly tax system in the world. It is so partly because of the peculiar dual sovereignty of the federal government and the forty-eight states, and partly because, like Topsy, it just grew. It has grown, today, to the point where no fewer than 175,000 different government units collect U. S. taxes. It has grown to a point of such disorganization and confusion that it is completely inadequate to deal, in anything resembling a business-like manner, with its single job—that of paying for the present-day U. S. government.

The annual tax bill of the U. S. is now in the neighborhood of $12,000,000,000. That is almost $100 a year apiece for every man, woman and child in the nation. It is almost $400 apiece for every head of a family. It is one-fifth of the national income. It is the biggest tax bill in the world.

But the total tax bill is not the *federal* tax bill—and the distinction is an important one. Of that $12,000,000,000, only $5,000,000,000, or considerably less than half, goes to Washington. The other $7,000,000,000 goes in part to the states, whose take is $2,500,000,000. And the bulk of it, $4,500,000,000, goes to those little local government units—counties, cities, townships, school districts, all the way down to mosquito-abatement districts—which stubbornly retain under the American plan of government the power to tax. They number over 175,000.

Moreover, although the American tax bill, taken *as a total,* tops the world, the American tax burden, compared to those of other nations, looks considerably lighter when viewed from other angles. In the first place, the *per capita* tax bill is lower than that of the Englishman and not far above that of the Frenchman, the German, and others. In the second place—and more significantly—since the average American income now sets an international high, the *proportion* of that income paid out in taxes is lower than the same figure for most of the other leading nations. The American keeps a larger share of what he gets.

In the third place—and most significantly, so far as an enlightened perspective on U. S. tax problems is concerned—that share of the average American income that goes to the *federal* government is just about an international low. For the federal treasury gets little over eight cents out of every dollar of national income. Most foreign taxpayers would be delighted to pay as little as 8 per cent of their incomes to their central governments.

But most foreign taxpayers would be annoyed and perplexed if they had to pay 12 per cent of their incomes to a congeries of state and local government units. Such diffusion of the taxing power is unique to the American scheme of government. The local and state tax toll created by that diffusion makes local and state taxes loom larger than federal taxes in any over-all discussion of the U. S. tax system. And this the average American rarely realizes.

As a matter of fact, the average American does not even realize that twenty cents out of every dollar he earns goes to taxes of one sort or another, federal, state or local.

## RED SERVANT PROBLEM

### *from "Novoye Russkoye Slovo," New York*

Formerly, Spartan notions were held in the Russian Communist Party on the subject of domestic help. These notions have now grown considerably less Spartan. But certain prejudices still exist, necessitating the use of ingenious dodges to circumvent them.

The wife, say, of the president of a village soviet assumes a certain risk if she simply hires a cook or a maid. To protect herself and her husband, she becomes an "activist" by organizing a cultural or other section connected with the village soviet. And if a soviet citizeness carries a load of social duties, she can hire three servants if she wants to. No one will accuse her of leading a profligate life or of becoming bourgeois.

A similar procedure is observed by the wives of army officers. They enlist in the organization of the Wives of Red Commanders. Likewise, wives of factory and plant executives join the Wives of Engineers. Membership in these organizations enables them to keep servants without risk or hindrance. Their reasoning is correct. It is better to sit in a committee room than to scrub floors with their own hands, do the washing or carry wood for the fire.—*A. Petrishev*

## THEY CANNOT RETURN

### *from Revista de Revistas, Mexico City*

Before the World War, there were only a few exiles: the Duke of Orleans; Prince Victor Bonaparte; Queen Natalie of Serbia, in a convent; King Manuel and his mother, Queen Amelia of Portugal; and the child emperor of China, Pu Yi.

Let us examine them now, in 1937. The list of exiles has increased to such an extent that we must divide it into categories; kings in exile, pretenders in exile, exiled intellectuals, exiles from the Orient and a miscellaneous group.

Exile No. 1—whether his absence from Great Britain is voluntary or enforced—is, of course, the Duke of Windsor, former occupant of the greatest throne in the world.

Exile No. 2 is the resident of Doorn, now almost an octogenarian, in his nineteenth year outside of Germany. It is estimated that Wilhelm has received $200,000,000 in marks, gold, artistic treasures and personal effects from the Prussian crown. The ex-kaiser passes his days

chopping wood. Who knows whether, in his schizophrenic moods, each log seems to be the head of an enemy? He breakfasts at 8, reads a dozen periodicals from New York and European capitals and attends to his copious correspondence daily.

At an opposite pole from the quiet of Doorn is the exile of the ex-king, Alfonso of Spain, who, after five years of restless travel, seems inclined to limit his journeys to the Italian lakes, Vienna, Hungary and Bavaria. His base of operations is the Hotel Imperial, in Vienna, where he is considered a member of the Hapsburg family.

Paris and other European cities do not offer much to Alfonso. He is not extravagant, and his only hobby is shooting. His personal friends have evaporated or been killed. His wife has taken up permanent residence in London. His son, the Count of Covadonga, refuses all persuasion to leave America.

As a change from these, the life of the ex-Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria is happier and full of interests. Possessor of an immense fortune, when he is not found in Egypt he is hunting rare birds or butterflies in South Africa. He has hundreds of birds in his Coburg residence. His leisure hours are spent with his collections of coins and precious stones.

The ex-Empress Zita of Austria spends her days plotting to fulfill her ambition to see her son crowned in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. Otto's cause is Zita's life work.

The greatest tragedy is the fate of the hundreds of thousands of exiles from all the countries under dictatorships. A special office has been created for the 100,000 exiled by the Hitler regime.

Without recourse, without nationality, unable to find work, without being permitted to establish residence anywhere, considered vagabonds, these thousands of men, women and children are victims of the critical condition which envelops the world.

The intellectuals in exile give a tonic to the world situation. Albert Einstein, famous German physicist, has been thrown out of his country. His house was searched, his library burned and he himself was deprived of his nationality. The novelist, Thomas Mann, and his family went into voluntary exile in 1934. They have been forced to abandon their house by order of the government. Leon Trotsky, sent as a youth to Siberia, later a leader of the Russian revolution, and organizer of the Red Army, is again an exile. He lives in Mexico. Like a modern Napoleon, Abd-el-Krim is today a recluse on Reunion Island, after having fought the French and Spanish in Morocco.

Finally, among the principal exiles of the Orient, is the present head of the puppet state of Manchukuo, Pu Yi, who has twice been emperor of China. His first reign lasted four years. The second, in 1918, lasted only twelve days, until the second republic was set up by General Tuan.

And closing this list of unfortunates, is Haile Selassie, the ex-emperor of Ethiopia, who travels over Europe, demanding that justice be done his country, recently conquered by Italy.

## Poem of the Week

### CHILD ON THE BEACH

*Here at the edge of foam I watch him stand,*
*This child made pygmy by the sky and sea,*
*Clutching a pebble in his small, square hand,*
*His little charm against infinity.*
*"It is my magic stone," he says to me,*
*Absurd and innocent. With heart and mind*
*I ponder his magician's game, and he*
*Is suddenly the symbol of his kind,*
*Man, strutting childlike on a wider shore,*
*Facing a tide more resolutely sweeping*
*Beyond the moon of his brief sky's control;*
*As confident, as vulnerable before*
*A fathomless oblivion, and keeping*
*Tight in his hand the pebble of his soul.*

—Sara Henderson Hay in *The American Mercury*

## WHY LAWS FAIL

*broadcast over CBS Network*

WHY are so many of our laws found to be unworkable when, for 40 centuries, humanity, like a testing machine, has tried out various types of laws and methods of lawmaking, and the records of these tests are in the laboratory of history?

The first reason is, they are based on a perverted theory of government. Civilization progressed by gradually restricting the field of government. It discovered the natural limits within which government can function beneficially; it discovered that beyond those limits government ceases to be helpful and becomes harmful; but, most important, it discovered you can juggle your theory of government as much as you please—it does not affect in the least what government can and cannot do.

Adopt, if you like, the theory that a chicken is a swan—that won't make the chicken swim. Government has specific functions, and when it oversteps these, the power that enables it to function normally cannot be applied to abnormal uses.

When a government scorns experience, it will tend more and more to fall into inexperienced hands. Then we see business regulated and restricted by men who themselves are under no business restrictions; orders issued to men who must make both ends meet, by men who do not have to make both ends meet; we see men whose chief interest is finance and industrial production controlled by those who believe in scarcity.

Laws are orders; you must pay for them and take them and live with them until you or the law breaks down. For example: One national activity has been singled out to bear the heavier burden of extra and improper governmental functions, but the part thus heavily laden has not been strengthened for its work.

It is inaccurate to say that government assumes these new burdens; government cannot assume them—new burdens must always be loaded on some activity of the people, which in this case happens to be industry.

All the so-called social panaceas that a generous government has adopted have been laid on industry to support. There isn't a single exception. And up to now industry *has* supported them; if the new schemes failed it has not been for lack of support.

Government cannot function properly in matters beyond its natural field. If dubious experiments must be made, industry will be found perfectly willing to pull its weight, and a little more, to give even a probably wrong law a fair trial. When, concurrently with the new burdens, there goes a legislative weakening of the very industries compelled to bear them—a systematic hammering down of initiative, a stoppage of means, an undermining of confidence and a powerful encouragement of harassing and obstructive forces—that, from start to finish, is simply bad engineering.—*W. J. Cameron, vice-president, Ford Motor Company*

**The British are suspicious of everything. England: "What are you doing?" Germany: "Cultivating my colonies."—*Il 420, Florence***

# Arts and Letters

## The World Dances

"TO EVERYTHING there is a season . . . a time to mourn and a time to dance." And this week at Rockefeller Center, the dance is unquestionably in order.

Last week the Dance International filled Radio City's Center Theater (seating capacity, 3500) for the first time in its history. Hundreds were turned away. Brokers sold seats for as high as $25 apiece. It was the climax of an ambitious plan to incorporate all aspects of the dance into one evening's entertainment.

The nations of the world have contributed their finest talent to make this festival of the dance a success. The dancers were studies in contrast as well as grace. The flying leaps of Paul Haakon; the lusty steps of "Barn Dance"; the insinuating tapping of Paul Draper's feet. Different as they were, the performances, through sheer artistry, hung together as an entity.

Besides the Center Theater triumph, the Dance International has attracted 1000 people daily to the exhibit in Rockefeller Center. Here are the presentations of the dance in painting, sculpture, and music from forty nations. Here, even nations at war, Spain, China, and Japan, paused to make their peace offerings.

An unusually attractive feature was the daily hour-long motion picture (always different) that traced the history of the dance from primitive Africa to twentieth century America, from the tribal dance to Bill Robinson and Fred Astaire.

The dance festival is the inspiration of Louise Branch, who, with the help of sculptress Malvina Hoffman and art-patroness Anne Morgan, brought the dancing world together in New York. The trio, believing that the dance is the most democratic of the arts, thinks that it should be brought to the public attention in these troublesome times.

## New War Books

RARELY has peace-time publishing produced in so short a time such a flood of war books as have appeared in the last few months. Nearly a dozen have been published in America, and at least two others have appeared in England. Of course, most of the American books also appeared in British editions, and some of them are by British authors.

The definite trend is toward the discussion of a possible next war, a theme which ten years ago was so completely taboo that the one or two bold authors who dared treat it were met with blank incredulity. At least half of the new books face this possibility frankly. Definitely on the side of religious pacifism is *Must We Go To War?* by Kirby Page (Farrar & Rinehart, $1.00), in which the author, a veteran in this subject, argues that a single million resolute war-resisters could keep America out of the next war, in spite of the economic and other war pressures which he lists.

### Menace to America

In much the same vein is *The Final Choice,* by Stephen and Joan Raushenbush (Reynal & Hitchcock, $2.50). The authors believe that America is caught between Europe and Asia, both of whom are inclined to warfare. At present this country is merely drifting. We must either decide definitely to stay out of the next world war, at any cost, or else take measures now to keep a really big war from getting started. Along somewhat the same lines is H. C. Engelbrecht's *Revolt Against War,* (Dodd Mead, $2.50). *Your Child Faces War* by Nelson Antrim Crawford (Coward-McCann, $1.25) is a handbook of pacifist education for puzzled parents.

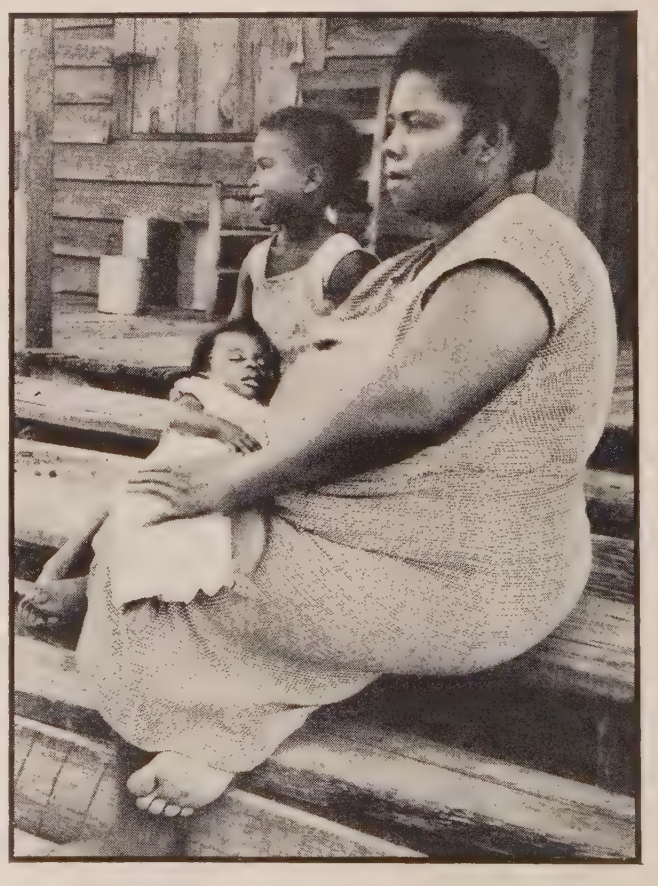
Richard Lewinsohn, in *Profits of War* (Dutton, $3.00), follows up a favorite subject of Mr. Engelbrecht's, pointing out, however, that the armaments business is not by any means, the easy, though wicked, road to riches often pictured. A number of the big armaments firms have gone broke or have been taken over by the government since the War closed. In his *History of Militarism* (W. W. Norton, $4.75), Dr. Alfred Vagts, German refugee and former German officer, follows the dismal story of war enthusiasm from feudal to modern days. Sir Charles Oman in *The History of the Art of War in the 16th Century* (Dutton, $6.00) writes a detailed study of a small part of the same subject, but he takes nearly 800 pages, too much for average readers.

*Background of War* by the editors of *Fortune* (Knopf, $2.50) is a sensible, factual little book which refuses to believe all the hair-raising stories that have been put about, particularly of the possible destruction of cities like New York in a single air raid. This, say the investigators after interrogating the authorities, simply could not be done without an aerial armada many times stronger than any modern power today possesses.

In the same mood is *If War Comes* by Majors R. Ernest Dupuy and George Fielding Eliot (Macmillan, $3.00), while Hans Leipman in *Poison in the Air* (Lippincott, $2.50) is more inclined to make our flesh creep. Captain Liddell Hart is rather dull and technical in his volume of collected articles, entitled *Europe in Arms* (Random House, $2.50). Roger Shaw provides a convenient handbook in *175 Battles* (Military Service Publishing Company, $2.00). In *Modern War* (North Hants Printing Company, 8s. 6d.) Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Dening insists that "armies, not air forces, decide wars."

None of these books solves the war problem, but their number shows at least that a lot of serious thinking is going on.

**SHARECROPPERS' PLIGHT is revealed to the nation. —*You Have Seen Their Faces* by Erskine Caldwell and Margaret Bourke-White. (Modern Age Books, $.75)**



# Topics in the News

*Business . Science . Sports . Religion . Theater*

## BUSINESS: We glance back, sadly, over the year 1937

"YOUTH is a blunder; manhood a struggle; old age a regret." Well might one take Disraeli's familiar epigram and apply it to the year 1937. Its youth (January through March) was frittered away in riotous living. Its maturity (April through August) foretold its doom. Its old age (September through December) was passed in cynical retrospection.

Anno Domini 1937 was a fat baby when it was spanked into life. Business was booming; steel furnaces roared almost at full blast; textile mills spun near capacity levels; a double hooker of dividends (at the close of 1936) whirled investors into an intoxication of prosperity; employment and pay rolls climbed back near pre-depression levels.

But during its youth our economic doctors sensed that 1937 had become infected with an inflation psychology. Some diagnosed the disease as congenital, an inheritance from its father: 1936.

Also during 1937's youth, and extending well into its maturity, workers in the steel and automobile (and other) industries went on strike. At the same time, retailers in many industries, fearing the threats of inflation and of strikes, piled up their inventories and thus kept manufacturers producing at full tilt.

When April came, 1937 was feeling "high." But April saw the turning point in its affairs. Early in that month President Roosevelt warned that prices of durable goods (iron and steel) were rising faster than consumer goods' prices, and he declared the New Deal would attempt to curb inflationary price increases. At the end of the month, the Governors of the Federal Reserve System hiked reserve requirements of member banks to the full legal limit of an average 20 per cent, thus putting into play a potent credit control intended to prevent any further credit inflation.

From April onward, stock and commodity prices began skidding downhill. Farm prices fell continuously as each crop estimate foretold greater bumper crops. Other commodities, such as rubber, tin and copper, fared even worse.

The tip-off to the general public that 1937 had turned sick came not until fall. Then, during September and October, the stock market, which had been sinking slowly, suddenly fell with three sharp bangs. And as the market fell it touched off other declines.

Once this happened, business analysts, amateur and professional, burst forth with causes and cures. They noticed that 1937's blood pressure—commodity prices—had fallen off alarmingly. Its temperature—stock prices—which measures its health inversely, had receded to two-year lows. In addition, they found that 1937 was suffering from hardening of the arteries—of production.

Yet comparisons with scandalous 1929 showed basic conditions to be far different then from 1937. True, consumption had fallen off, inventories had piled up, production was being curtailed, unemployment was rising. Analysts feared that recession of 1937 might well develop into depression of 1938.

From the stock market came pleas for relaxed SEC regulations, to restore liquid markets. In return, the Federal Reserve Board eased up on margin requirements and the SEC warned exchanges that they must devise better management methods or else succumb to direct government control.

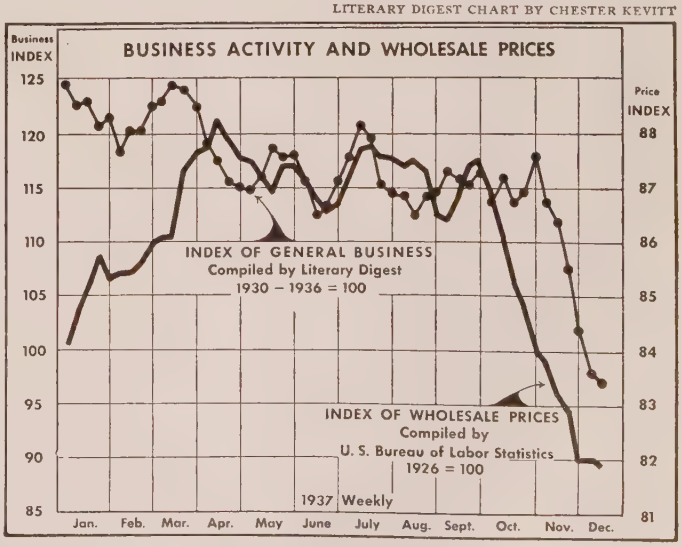
From business men came pleas to modify, if not repeal, such taxes as those on capital gains and surplus profits, which, they argued, were hamstringing business. In return, Congress in special session began a study of those taxes.

From others, alarmed over the New Deal's fiscal affairs, came the cry that the swelling public debt was dangerous and that continued unbalanced budgets were hurtful. In return, President Roosevelt promised a balanced budget, while the last few months have seen a change in the character of the federal debt.

On the positive side, the President proposed a huge housing drive to revive residential construction, hence to aid the lagging capital goods industries, to stimulate other industries, and to restore us to prosperity. Moreover, the President began late in the year a series of peace talks with public utility heads, who promise that if a satisfactory agreement is reached they will place orders for deferred equipment, and thus stimulate the heavy goods industries.

| | 1937 | | | 1936 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec. 11 | Dec. 4 | Nov. 27 | Dec. 12 |
| STOCK SALES | 71 | 73 | 73 | 127 |
| BOND SALES | 69 | 68 | 68 | 118 |
| BANK DEBITS—N. Y. CITY | 85 | 87 | 92 | 109 |
| DEPOSIT CIRCULATION—N. Y. CITY | 103 | 102 | 104 | 107 |
| BANK DEBITS OUTSIDE N. Y. CITY | 105 | 104 | 109 | 124 |
| FREIGHT CARLOADINGS | 99 | 100 | 102 | 119 |
| BITUMINOUS COAL PRODUCTION | — | 102 | 103 | 126 |
| CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION | 139 | 137 | 140 | 127 |
| AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION | 85 | 86 | 88 | 117 |
| ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION | 124 | 124 | 125 | 125 |
| COTTON FORWARDINGS | 96 | 105 | 112 | 151 |
| CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS | 123 | 124 | 128 | 152 |
| STEEL PRODUCTION | 54 | 57 | 63 | 142 |
| **INDEX OF GENERAL BUSINESS** | **97** | **98** | **102** | **125** |

LITERARY DIGEST CHART BY CHESTER KEVITT




**COMMODITY PRICES FELL** faster and farther than the line of general business. Both lines on our chart, however, seem to have slowed up the pace of their October-December decline

To most dispassionate observers, the recession of 1937 was but a normal phase of the recovery cycle. They argued that once cost and price disparities were corrected, and, once glutted inventories were used up, the groundwork for recovery would be laid. But as they carted away the carcass of 1937 and awaited the advent of 1938, they vowed that the new year would lead a more sober life.

## SCIENCE: Amazing, indispensable discoveries of the year 1937

AMERICAN science's best and biggest year was 1937. At Indianapolis, this week, hundreds of the 18,000 members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science are intent upon many a momentous enigma of science and medicine: upon work hitherto unequaled in volume and in significance to mankind. This great symposium, though the largest on 1937's labors, is only one of many—and not the most important. It is now impossible to claim that one scientific enterprise is more meaningful than another. Today all science seems vital to human survival.

Also this week, at Washington, separately convene the Society of American Bacteriologists and the Geological Society of America. The microbe-hunters consider infantile paralysis, important microbes of the soil, and microbes invaluable to industry. The earth-probers talk about sources of priceless minerals, earthquakes, the future of the American continents, the popularization of earth-lore.

Eradication of diseases menacing children, or soil-enrichment that famine may not strike, or stimulation of love of earth-science in a young genius who later may show men how to forecast quakes and so foil stupendous threats of nature—of these, which is more vital?

Dr. Edwin Grant Conklin, retiring president of the A.A.A.S., marks the beginning of another year in a renowned career of life-research, teaching, authorship, and biophilosophy. In his address on "Science and Ethics" he hits a keynote for the Indianapolis meeting—a keynote of deepest meaning. The modern world is science's world. Civilization more and more must depend upon the work of its guides, the scientists.

During 1937, American science has made amazing, indispensable discoveries. It has proved that apparently non-living protein molecules of peculiar, deadly types can cause disease: infantile paralysis, common colds, influenza, smallpox. Establishing for certain the causes of such virus maladies, it has established an entire new science, practically an all-American science.

The 1937 flowering of depression-stimulated research in industry has brought tens of thousands of new jobs, has reduced to absurdity the unthinking charge that science is a danger to the workingman, has demonstrated that

PHOTOS FROM INTERNATIONAL

**SCIENCE president, biologist Dr. Edwin G. Conklin of Princeton, thinks that the year 1937 was notable. This week he retires as head of A. A. A. S.**

science leads the way out of depression. In fact, research at the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, has alone created in the past few years ten whole industries, 650 new products and processes.

As never before, in 1937 American science has extended its control of disease, its development of means of livelihood, its aid in raising the standard of living.

Yet, perhaps, American science's greatest achievement in 1937 was intangible—its adherence to American principles. In American science there has been no nazism, fascism, communism, no dictatorship. The scientific—the open-minded yet intelligently critical—attitude prevails. Einstein, refugee in America, attributes his almost peerless successes chiefly to the freedom of his mind, whither new ideas, no matter how embarrassing to earlier conclusions, have ready access. American science, fostering this attitude and its popular spread, does far more than make amazing, indispensable discoveries. At once faith in progress through science is advanced, faith in demagogues is lost.

Suggested resolution of American science for 1938: To consider the establishment of a central bureau for the promulgation of the really significant background of new discoveries. Thus science and the scientific attitude could be conveyed to the public as pure and undistorted as before an A.A.A.S. meeting.

## SPORTS: Snow made to order adds gaiety to life in cities

FROM Chicago to Detroit, to Philadelphia, to Baltimore, and last week to New York, came the Ice Follies of 1938. A year ago the exhibition drew nearly a million spectators, and it is only one of several now touring the country. Gay Blades is another, the Hollywood Ice Revue is a third. First artificial ice and now the snow-making machine made the thing possible.

In Madison Square Garden, for example, the winter-sports promoter assembles 30,000 feet of steel tubing to erect a hill 85 feet high, reaching to roof girders. Over this, with plank and matting base, is spread a blanket of snow six inches deep, made of crushed ice (manufactured on the premises) and blown through hose and nozzle with flaky fineness. It's real snow.

Down this man-made snow hill, as high as a six- or seven-story building, come ski-jumpers and ski-runners from Norway, Austria, Switzerland, Canada, and our own northern states, to amaze the steam-heated lover of outdoor sports. Go north to ski for yourself, if you wish. Otherwise stay at home, and the best in skiland will come to you.

Some winter-sports carnivals feature ski-jumping and downhill skiing. Others stress skating. Gay Blades features Karl Schaefer, twice Olympic figure-skating champion, and Maribel Vinson, nine times women's champion of the United States; twenty-six skaters in all, touring the country in a four-car train after six weeks of rehearsals at Lake Placid. Hollywood Revue stars the inimitable Sonja Henie. Ice Follies of 1938 brings together a cast of fifty, largest as well as oldest of American ice shows.

And no winter sports carnival is complete without its comedian. You will sit spellbound while Sonja skates, but you will shout aloud at the antics of Oscar Johnson and Eddie Shipstad.

There is something else for the city winter-sports fan, these long winter evenings, besides the movies.

## RELIGION: Is bingo gambling, when church-sponsored?

A SIGN in front of a New York church reads: "Bingo every Thursday night in the Holy Spirit Room." On a rural Arkansas church a poster proclaims: "Bingo party every week—Everybody welcome." Encircled in neon lights another outside a Chicago suburban church announces: "Don't miss bingo Friday. Handsome prizes."

Attracted by such extra-spiritual heralds, thousands of Americans sit down in church weekly to try their luck in this national craze. In some localities the Tuesday or Thursday game at the corner church-house overshadows all other events.

A survey made by the LITERARY DIGEST shows that the playing of bingo is spreading rapidly throughout the United States. Neighborhood merchants have begun to complain of competition. Movie exhibitors are protesting. Some church leaders take a definite stand against the game.

Last week religious editors and others admitted freely that discussion of the

moral issue had reached controversial proportions. Philip Yarrow, chairman of the civic relations commission of the Chicago Church Federation, expresses this opinion to the LITERARY DIGEST:

"The commission has repeatedly pleaded with churches to stop petty gambling as a means of raising money. Churches a few years ago would have been horrified at the mere suggestion of such methods as playing bunco, beano, or bingo, and raffling quilts or other articles. The argument of some church officials is that, if wealthy churches can raise money by bridge, why should not the smaller ones play beano? We say the kingdom of God cannot be established by shooting craps."

Typical of church sentiment in favor of bingo is this view of the Rev. H. A. Velte, of Milwaukee's St. Boniface Church, despite Archbishop Stritch's ban:

"How absurd to think that it is wrong when parents and their children sit down to a game that costs them a little 35 cents for the sake of a thrill that comes to them when seeing themselves or their friends win a prize. Of course, this innocent game can be carried to extremes."

The Rev. Francis Talbot, S.J., editor of *America,* sends this comment to the LITERARY DIGEST:

"I cannot grow frenzied with the puritanic precisionists who rate the bourgeois pastime of bingo as a major sin. Rather am I frenzied at those pulpiteers who remain silent on such major ills as godless schools, loose faith, easy divorce, and shout down wrath on a little shell game that ruins neither piety nor morals, character nor families. Played under proper auspices with petty stakes, the worst harm that bingo causes is a sore throat. Church bingo parties are a healthy substitute for gossip teas, lovesick movies, and liberal-minded lecturers. All life is a gamble, but nobody gambles life away at a bingo fest. Let us concentrate on the stock market and politics."

Beano and bingo, with their allure, swift turnover, and simplicity of operation—placing beans or corns on five squares in a straight line and shouting, "Beano!" or "Bingo!"—had a way of stimulating gambling instincts. The International Reform Federation (Washington, D. C.) investigated.

Its law-enforcement director, Henry N. Pringle, said he found that practically all churches had gone in for bingo and such games, with professional promoters running many of them. He added: "The percentage which churches will get out of the intake varies with the value of the prizes. In some cases trinkets worth only a few cents, constitute prizes; in others cash prizes are given. The churches probably get 50 per cent of the take."

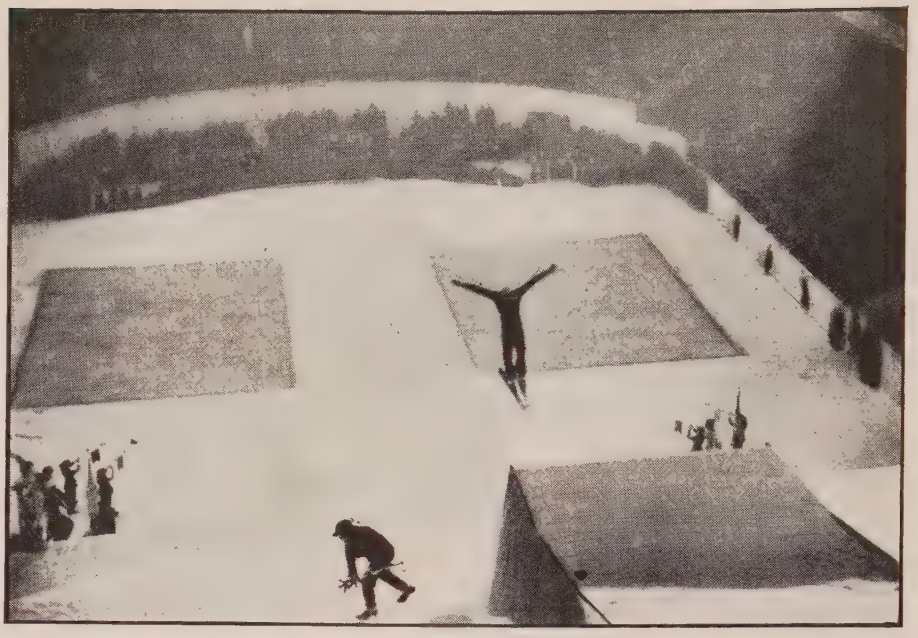
In December, 1936, Bishop Edmund F. Gibbons, of Albany, in an archiepiscopal letter, forbade the playing of bingo in church buildings and the renting of church property for bingo games, and forbade Catholics in his diocese to play even on non-church property, on the ground that bingo tended to undermine morals.

Archbishop Stritch of Milwaukee took the stand that sometimes such games were sinful or the places in which they were played tended to encourage sin.

Archbishop John J. Glennon, of St. Louis, writing to the churches of his diocese last month, said: "Gambling devices and games promoted ostensibly for the benefit of churches, schools, institutions or societies are unworthy of our Catholic people, inducing the gambling habit."

In New York, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and the Greater New York Federation of Churches condemned bingo, but they reported that playing in churches in their groups had not yet reached an issue stage.

In Chicago, Bishop Ernest Lynn Waldorf, head of the Methodist Episcopal Church there, told the LITERARY DIGEST: "We deprecate the use of gambling devices and practices of any kind to raise church finances."



**SKI-JUMPING INDOORS.** It is made possible by machines that make ice, twelve tons an hour, which in turn is chopped by machinery into flaky snow. Top of this slide in Madison Square Garden is 85 feet above the arena floor

The following comments come to us from religious magazines:

*Church Management* (Cleveland): "In its elementary form bingo is petty gambling. Compared with the raffling of a quilt its harm is purely relative. But in our midwestern cities the popularity of bingo has made it the target of the racketeer and gangster. The attitude of churches which tolerate the game makes all anti-gambling law enforcement difficult."

*Presbyterian Guardian* (Philadelphia), official organ of the Presbyterian Church of America: "The church can never adequately carry on its God-given function of preaching the supernatural gospel if it tries to accomplish its task by improper methods."

*Advance* (Boston) Congregationalist-Christian organ: "We do not believe that churches can resort to such devices without bringing the church into disrepute."

*Living Church* (Milwaukee), leading organ of the Protestant Episcopal Church: "While bingo may be simply an innocent form of diversion, it is one that might better be avoided by the church for three reasons: (1) It is an undignified method of raising funds for the Lord's work. (2) It may prove an occasion of stumbling to some, especially young people. (3) It sets a precedent which can be and often is cited by professional gambling promoters in justification of their actions."

*Churchman* (New York), liberal journal of the Protestant Episcopal Church: "We admit there may be considerable difference between the selling of a limited number of chances at a church fair on some articles rather too expensive for one person to buy, and a game like bingo which presents the temptation to play on and on. But the principle is the same, and a forceful indictment should be presented of a dangerous habit into which

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**A LABOR UNION** stages a musical comedy. ILGWU'S hit, *Pins and Needles*, presents "Four Little Angels of Peace"—Mussolini, Eden, Hitler, and a Japanese

the church and charity have fallen."

*American Lutheran* (New York): "No conscientious preacher can denounce gambling from the pulpit on Sunday and permit it in his church hall on a weekday. It is a matter of regret to all Lutherans that in spite of the unanimous official denunciation of the bingo form of gambling, certain isolated congregations within our circles persist in this practice."

## THEATER: Labor and left-wingers stage two riotous shows

FRIVOLITY, flippancy, satire in the ranks of labor? Impossible, you say. Those are capitalist expressions, reserved for caviar-eaters and orchid weavers. Lean and hungry labor, militant, has no time or inclination for frippery.

Yet the day has come to toss that theory into the wastebasket. Twice in the last month labor has shed its traditional grimness. It has two musical hits on its hands, an item as surprising to the workers as to the mink-coat, white-tie audiences whose ribs are nightly sprained from laughing.

Neither the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union nor the Mercury Theater, in New York, expected an avalanche of Park Avenue customers when they timidly put on week-end performances of *Pins and Needles* and *The Cradle Will Rock*. What happened is theater history.

New York critics, who cherish their free Sunday evenings, reluctantly attended Marc Blitzstein's *Cradle*, experimental venture of the new Mercury Theater. Nonplussed is a baby word for their reactions. Dramatic pages sprawled next morning with praise and excitement. "Written with extraordinary versatility and played with enormous gusto," said Brooks Atkinson of the *Times*. "A savagely humorous social cartoon that hits hard and sardonically and must be set down as one of the most interesting dramatic events of the season," said Richard Watts, Jr., of the *Herald Tribune*. So said all the rest. Result: the show is moving promptly into a Broadway theater for nightly performances.

Some of these same critics found their way to the union's production. Again the columns genuflected with delight. *Pins and Needles* rated these comments: "Bitter savagery of its laughter," "glib ferocity of its rhyming," "a gaily satirical revue that possesses much of the fresh and unspoiled quality of *The Garrick Gaieties*." Result: *Pins and Needles* went into nightly performances.

It is not news when a starving boy and girl spend their last pennies to laugh at Ed Wynn or George M. Cohan. It will not be news any more when the rich folk pay to see themselves kidded by the workers. The reason this has not happened before is obvious. These are the first occasions on which labor has publicized its sense of humor. Real humor has never been limited to income brackets or political affiliations.

Of the two shows, Marc Blitzstein's is the more serious. His *Cradle Will Rock* has been tossing around for a year. Scheduled for Federal Theater production last winter, it was suddenly withdrawn by command from Washington. When Orson Welles and John Houseman left the Federal Theater to start their Mercury they sought out Blitzstein. They would, they told him, play his opus on Sunday nights when their fantastically successful *Julius Caesar* was taking a week-end nap. So it appeared on the Mercury's bare stage, like *Caesar*, with the performers also in mufti, as in *Caesar*.

Mr. Blitzstein sits at the piano, downstage, playing the whole score except when he interrupts himself to announce new scenes or to take minor roles in the play. His story tells of how Mr. Mister, a big shot in Steeltown, bribes President Prexy of the local university, Editor Daily of the newspaper, Doctor Specialist, and Reverend Salvation to play ball with him against the steel workers who are trying to organize. Ugly things happen, but the workers unite in the end into a militant, triumphant union.

Nothing original about the plot. Per se it would have been another irritating radical affair. It is Blitzstein's lilting music, caricature characters, caustic wit, and the fine and fervent spirit of the actors, that make his work a sensation. Mrs. Mister fluttering about as she fawns over her effeminate musician and painter, Yasha and Dauber, is but one sample of *Cradle's* masterful burlesque.

Dauber and Yasha trill a ditty that certainly ought to crash the air waves:

> And we love art for art's sake,
> It's smart, for art's sake,
> To part, for art's sake,
> With your heart, for art's sake,
> And your mind, for art's sake. . . ."*

*Pins and Needles* is a straight revue which kids everybody, including its own ranks. Far more rollicking than *Cradle*, and with even catchier tunes and lyrics, it is the producer's answer to the charge that labor theaters must be humorless. Its name starts on the right foot to give that answer. Say ILGWU and see if you don't sound like the Ritz brothers doing double talk. It means International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. That union founded Labor Stage, Inc., two years ago, spent many months training its members in drama, dance, music, singing, rebuilt an old theater into the smartest modern playhouse in town, and put on one play, John Wexley's *Steel*, not a box-office success, for the same reason that other radical excursions into theater had failed—until *Pins and Needles*.

Seldom has this reviewer heard so much noisy guffawing from a dignified audience. First crack out of the box, a gang of performers from Whitegoods, Underwear and Bonaz Embroiderers offers a number which will make first ten on the Hit Parade before long (else we will eat the departmental hat):

> Sing me a song with social significance,
> All other songs are taboo,
> I want a ditty with heat in it,
> Appealing with feeling and meat in it . . .†

Harold J. Rome, composer of both music and lyrics, like Marc Blitzstein, plays his score on the piano throughout the show. A young Yale law school graduate, he is now in that entertaining last-laugh position. He peddled his satirical jingles all over Broadway among the big musical show producers. Thumbs down! they cried. They failed to observe that his

*Courtesy Random House, publishers.
†Courtesy Mills Music, Inc., Copyright 1937.

tunes and rhymes are so appealing that one cannot help memorizing them. Now the same producers are kicking themselves around the block.

A collection of cockeyed sketches, rather than a caustic music drama, *Pins* differs from *Cradle* in having both costumes and sets. The players make no pretense at being seasoned professionals. What they lose in experience, such as the Mercury group displays, they gain miraculously in spirit—an informal, exuberant quality missing from Broadway for many seasons. A young lady called Ruth Rubinstein from Underwear Local 32 is a natural as a comedienne. She scores her biggest wow on a solo about a Vassar girl whose B. A. finally landed her a job at Macy's:

> Once I wrote poems, put folks in tears,
> Now I write checks for ladies' brassieres,
> I used to be on the Daisy Chain.
> Now I'm a chain store daisy.†

Curiously enough, the two lavish musical productions now playing in the metropolis are also political and social satires. Ed Wynn's *Hooray For What!* and George M. Cohan's *I'd Rather Be Right* stem directly from the woes of these parlous times.

All of which seems to make *Pins and Needles* and *The Cradle Will Rock* far less ominous threats to reactionism than they might have appeared a few years ago.

## TOPICS IN BRIEF

ALTHOUGH 1940 is still around a couple of corners, already a number of presidential impossibilities are prominently mentioned.—*Omaha World-Herald*

Mr. Landon of Kansas says he will not be a candidate for president in 1940. California papers please copy.—*Wichita (Kans.) Eagle*

It may be that work is good for us. Where you find the most idle people, you find the most freak ideas.—*Buffalo News*

About the only farm movements which will benefit the farmers are those that start at daybreak and end at sundown.—*Van Alstyne (Tex.) Leader*

A Detroit newspaper gibes at the idea the South is law-abiding, which reminds us of the magnificent manner in which Michigan handled the lawless sit-downers, thus gaining the right to point the finger of scorn.—*Memphis Commercial Appeal*

Also, if you can make better claptrap the world will beat a path to your door. —*Ottawa Journal*

The 1930's are likely to be remembered as the decade which established a new high for international conferences and a new low for international coöperation.—*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

Cricket fights are staged by Chinese. If they are put on the radio we'll bet the announcers make these duels between two tiny insects sound like a heavyweight championship match between two bull elephants.—*William Ritt in Tulsa World*

One report has it that Washington is in a virtual stampede to coöperate with business. Let's hope that nobody gets crushed in this belated hurry.—*Kansas City Star*

A man has been in Congress twenty years and has never made a speech. He should be elected for life.—*Norfolk (Va.) Ledger-Dispatch*

More than 4,000,000 pounds of aspirin were used in the United States last year, which only goes to show the size of the national headache.—*Troy (N. Y.) Record*

After all, why should Hollywood worry over the collapse of its near-by mountains? That can easily be rectified by just laying in a few molehills and calling in her bright publicity boys.—*George Ryan in Boston Herald*

## FOR THE RECORD

CIRCUS FOLK—Mrs. K— S— took her four-year-old two-headed nephew to see Santa Claus today.—*New York Daily Mirror*

*For the kiddies*—Roosevelt Wants Tax Revision. . . . President Outlines Other Steps to Restore Confidence of 12-Year-Old-Girl.—*Headline in Niagara Falls Gazette*

*The lost years*—Q: Who were the Democratic candidates for the presidency and vice presidency in 1932? A: Al Smith and Joseph Robinson.—*Current History*

*Chinese dragons?*—Question: How many species of dragon-flies are there? Answer: One way is to clean them, cut them in two-inch pieces and parboil eight minutes. —*El Paso (Tex.) Herald-Post*

*And break the brake?*—To stop the glory of your downhill run [on skis] you can apply your emergency break by simply sitting down.—*Collier's*

*Economy drive*—The house . . . debated . . . a proposal by Representative A— that benefit payments to any one farmer be limited to $5000. Representative P— suggested $10,000. Finally the House decided to split the difference . . . at $75,000. —*Jamestown (N. Y.) Morning Post*

*Trial by error*—For public sale, Morgenthau offered $250,000,000 worth of eight-year 2.5 per cent bonds. . . . His defense will be insanity.—(*Phoenix*) *Arizona Republic*

*Errant is right*—It explains the uncanny prescience with which the little woman detects, in the brain of her souse, those errant fancies.—*Portsmouth (Va.) Star*

*Billing for cooing*—One-third of the population . . . are dissatisfied. Their souls are filled with desperation in their fight against the high cost of loving. . . .— *Utica (N. Y.) Daily Press*

*For tender skins*—A famous recipe calls for soaking the children in milk for an hour if over 2 pounds . . . the milk is later used for the cream sauce . . .— *Bronx (N. Y. C.) Home News*

*Latin lore*—If you knew Cassius as a dull, hazy third of the First Triumvirate . . .—*Literary Digest.* But the dull, hazy third was Crassus.

†Courtesy Mills Music, Inc., Copyright 1937.

**"TOVARICH" COMES TO THE SCREEN, starring Charles Boyer and Claudette Colbert. Disarming and delightful as was its predecessor on the stage, the show unfolds the adventures of a Russian nobleman and his princess wife turned domestic servants in a rich, bourgeois, Parisian household.**

# The Spice of Life

(Title registered U. S. Patent Office)

**Parable**—"How many cigars do you smoke a day?"

"About ten."

"What do they cost you?"

"Twenty cents apiece."

"My, that's two dollars a day. How long have you been smoking?"

"Thirty years."

"Two dollars a day for thirty years is a lot of money."

"Yes, it is."

"Do you see that office building on the corner?"

"Yes."

"If you had never smoked in your life you might own that fine building."

"Do you smoke?"

"No, never did."

"Do you own that building?"

"No."

"Well, I do."—*Blue Jay*

**Fair Enough**—"Whaffo' you sharpenin' 'at razor?"

"Woman, they's a paih o' genmun's shoes undah yo' bed. If they ain't no one IN them shoes, I's gonna shave."—Purple Cow

**Innuendo**—"Waiter."

"Yes, sir?"

"Have you ever been to the zoo?"

"No, sir."

"Well, you ought to go sometime. You'd get a big kick out of watching the turtles zip past."—*Sundial*

**Tit for Tat**—J. T. Harahan, president of the Illinois Central, some years ago was sitting in his office when a burly fellow entered without knocking.

"Me name's Casey," he bellowed. "I want a pass to St. Louis. I wur-rk in the yards."'

Harahan objected: "That's no way to ask for a pass; you should introduce yourself politely. Come back in an hour and try again."

At the end of an hour the caller returned. Doffing his hat, he inquired: "Are yez Mr. Harahan?"

"I am."

"Me name's Patrick Casey. I've been wur-rkin' in the yards."

"Glad to know you, Mr. Casey. What can I do for y[illegible]?"

"Yez can go to hell. I've got a job on the Missouri Pacific."—The Garment Worker

**Sideline**—The Welsh gladiator, Tommy Farr, would rather write songs, he says, than box. No one knows what became of the pugilist who was interested in pugilism.—*H. V. Wade in Detroit News*

**Caution**—The electrician was puzzled. "Hey," he called to his assistant, "put your hand on one of those wires."

The assistant did as he was told.

"Feel anything?"

"No."

"Good," said the electrician. "I wasn't sure which was which. Don't touch the other or you'll drop dead."—Froth

**Wear and Tear**—A traveling salesman, detained in a certain village overnight, was introduced in the town's hotel to a crazy little billiard table and a set of balls of uniform, dirty gray color.

"But how do you tell the red from the white?" he asked.

"Oh," replied the landlord, "you soon get to know them by their shape."—*The Log*

**Discovery**—The shortest perceptible unit of time is that between the traffic light's change and the honk from the driver behind you.—*Niagara Falls Review*

**Extended Theory**—Bill Robinson, at the opening of the Cotton Club, explained why he wouldn't fly from Hollywood.

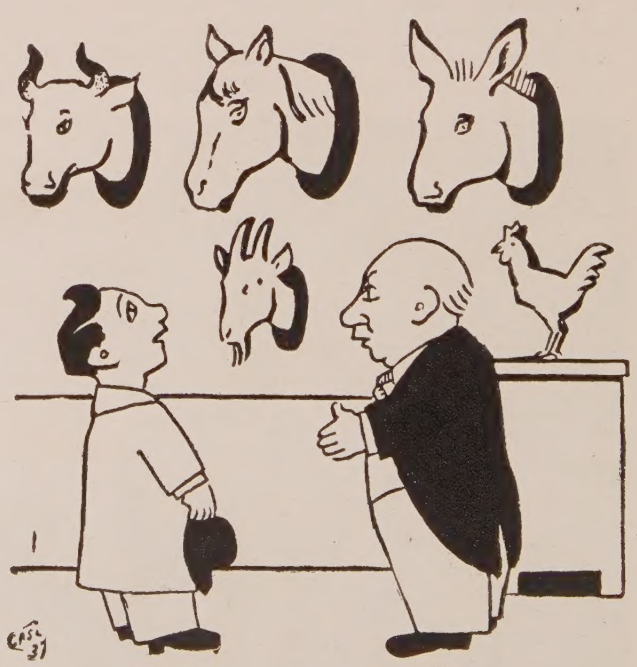
He said he'd heard the old fatalistic line—"Go ahead and fly. When your number's up, your number's up."

"But," said Bill, "suppose the PILOT'S number is up, and there's Bill Robinson sittin' right behind him."—John Chapman in New York Daily News

**Critique**—Correct this sentence: "I don't listen to comedians," said the radio fan, "because it is dangerous for me to laugh too much."—*Halifax Chronicle*

**Analysis**—America has more cars than bathtubs, but no wonder. Getting into a tub doesn't make you feel like a bigshot.—Buffalo Evening News

**Teched**—He is one of the better known members of cafe society. . . . And the most eccentric of them. . . . They tell you that he plays golf—without a ball! . . . This is how he allegedly does it: He takes a healthy swing at an imaginary ball, looks down the fairway a moment or two and figures to himself about how far he hit it. He usually gives himself 200 yards. . . . He then imagines getting into the rough or bunker and allows himself a few extra strokes to get out of the trap—and once on the green he takes three putts to sink the ball. . . . None of his critics has any complaint about his system. It is a form of shadow boxing. . . . But they are beginning to worry about his mental condition since he fired his caddy for handing him the wrong club!—*Walter Winchell in Philadelphia Evening Ledger*



"A fine set of trophies! You must be a keen shot."
"No, but I do a bit of motoring."—*Moustique, Charleroi*

**140,000 PERSONS** . . . men and women, die annually of cancer. Yet cancer, if discovered in time, can be cured . . . Purchase the label shown above, place it on all your packages, and join one of the greatest crusades of our times: the fight against ignorance and fear of cancer. Help spread our message by doing your part . . . **FIGHT CANCER WITH KNOWLEDGE!**

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# THE NEW YORK CITY CANCER COMMITTEE

# "LAUGH, Miss LOY!"

**Even after "turning on a laugh" 100 times a day, Myrna Loy*—MGM star—finds Luckies easy on her throat..**

**A word about your throat—** "Laughing before the sound camera is hard on the throat," says Myrna Loy. "After scenes of this sort, it's clear that Luckies are *the* cigarette for anyone who wants a light smoke that's easy on the throat!" Here's the reason in a nut-shell: the process "It's Toasted" takes out certain irritants that are found in *all* tobacco!

**A word about tobacco**—Aren't men who spend their lives buying and selling tobacco the best judges of tobacco quality? Then remember ... sworn records reveal that among independent tobacco experts Lucky Strike has *twice* as many exclusive smokers as all other brands combined. With men who know tobacco best—it's Luckies—2 to 1.

*STAR OF MGM PICTURE "MAN-PROOF"

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**Easy on your throat—"It's Toasted"**

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